

ST. LAWRENCE



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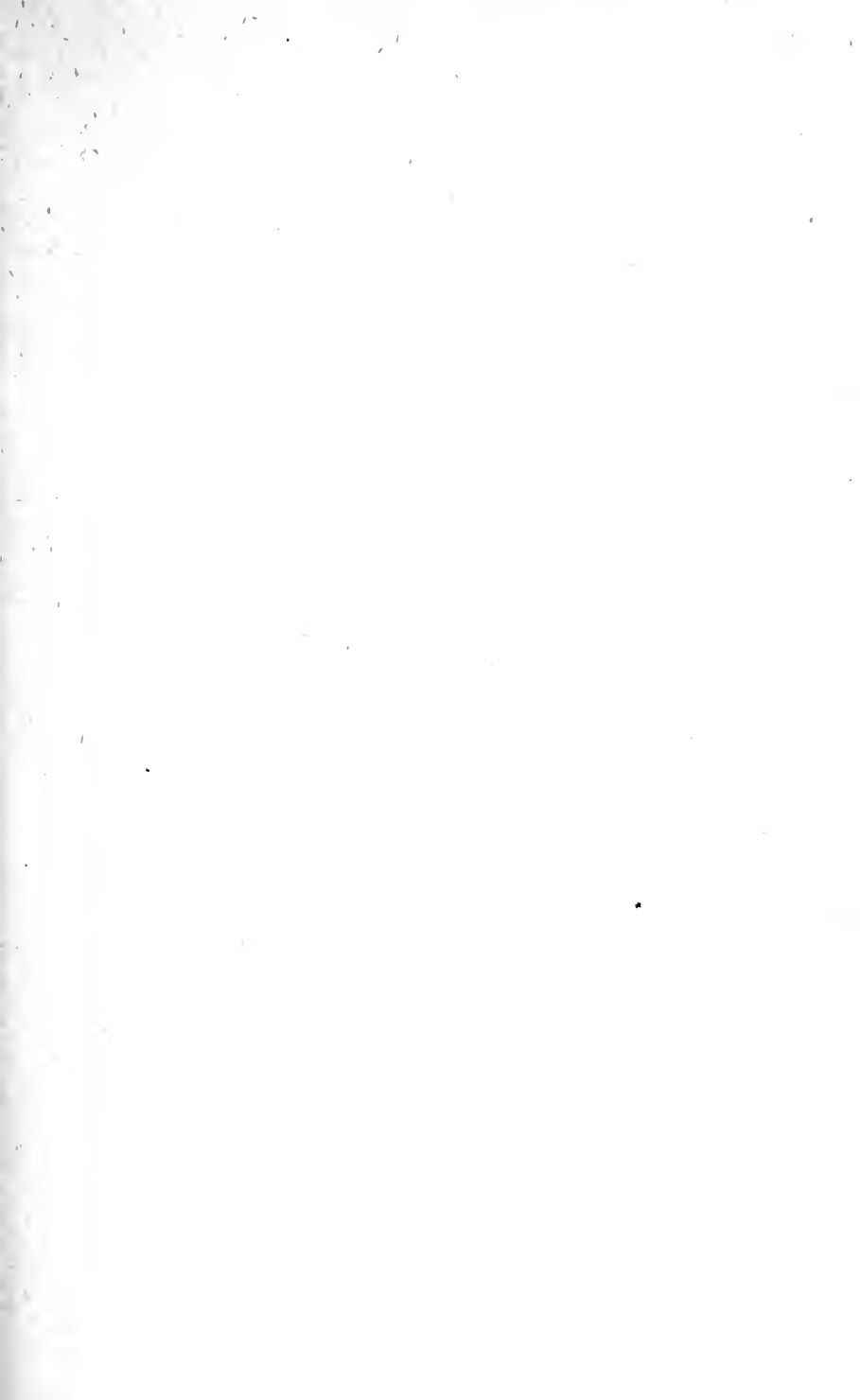
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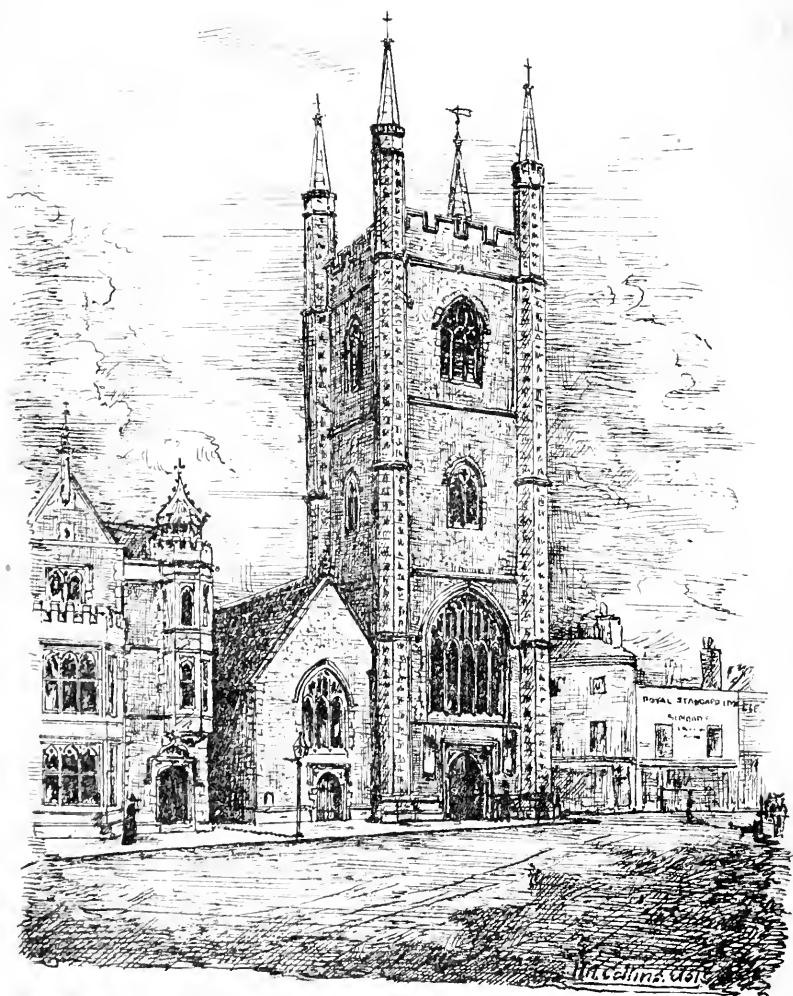
St. Lawrence,

Reading.

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THE CHURCH.

A
History
OF THE
Municipal Church
OF
ST. LAURENCE,
Reading.

BY
Rev. Charles Kerry,
Curate.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR,
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1883.

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TO THE
WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR
AND THE
ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES OF READING,
THIS ACCOUNT OF THEIR
ANCIENT MUNICIPAL CHURCH
is Respectfully Dedicated
BY THEIR OBEDIENT SERVANT
The Author.

Preface.

The archives of St. Lawrence's Church, in Reading, are amongst the oldest and most interesting in England. They commence in 1410, and are tolerably complete down to the present time.

The earlier details are so graphic, that they afford not only a wonderful insight into the history and changes of the fabric, the exquisite nature of its furniture and decorations—so valuable to the ecclesiologist and art student—but also illustrate to a great extent the parochial life of the fifteenth and following centuries.

It is quite beyond the Author's means to publish the documents *in extenso*, but he has endeavoured to illustrate, by hundreds of literal extracts, the various points of interest connected with the Church, and the manners and customs of the people; so that the present work will be found to contain all that is really interesting in the records, not only to the antiquary, but to the general reader.

In many respects this work may be considered a typical history of every parish church in England—everywhere the ancient centre of parochial life; and it is on this account chiefly that the Author has felt justified and encouraged in his responsible undertaking.

The writer desires to express his warmest thanks to the Vicar and Churchwardens for the loan of Church documents; to J. Challenor Smith, Esq., of the Probate Registry, for his courtesy and assistance during his researches at Somerset House; to Arthur Billing, Esq., for the interesting description of the mural paintings discovered by him in the chancels in 1848; and to his valued friend, Llewellyn Jewett, Esq., F.S.A., &c., the editor of the "Reliquary," for the pictorial illustrations of the tumbrel.

CHARLES KERRY.

June 24, 1883.

CORRIGENDA ET ADDENDA.

- p. 5, line 18, *for* "have," *read* "has."
- „ 13, „ 25, *for* "springing," *read* "springings."
- „ 28, „ 20, under 1638, *add*—
- "A canopy was erected over the altar this year, at a cost of 4*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* It is not probable that this survived the visit of the Earl of Essex's lambs in 1643."
- „ 61, „ 7, *for* "291 lbs.," *read* "261 lbs."
- „ 99, „ 19, *for* "ied," *read* "vied."
- „ 157, „ 30, *for* "Fading," *read* "Fading."
- „ 158, „ 11, *for* "Feding," *read* "Feding."
- „ 221, „ 28, *for* "PHANNEL," *read* "PHANUEL."
- „ 232, „ 11, *should be*
- "Honey and fish with *us* he ate."
- „ 232, „ 39, *for* "bleds and," *read* "bledsand," *i.e.*, bloody or bleeding.

Early History.

THE Parish of Saint Lawrence, Reading, occupies the angle formed by the Thames and the Kennett. The gravel bank on which the older portion of the town is built, here terminates abruptly in a narrow headland, protected originally on the north and east by marshy swamps and deep water-courses, and on the south by the Kennett.

A spot so well defended would naturally commend itself to an aboriginal people ; and here, if anywhere, we might expect to find indications of a primitive occupation ; but the surface of the hill has been so much disturbed in mediæval and modern times, that research in this direction would not produce much satisfactory evidence. There can be no doubt, however, that the numerous remains found in the Kennett in the vicinity of the new bridge at the Reading Gasworks in 1881, many of which consisted of prehistoric implements formed of the bones of animals, were swept down there from the margin of the headland by the force of the river floods, and so must be regarded with special interest as illustrating the very early occupation of this elevation many ages before any portion of modern Reading came into being. Dr. Stevens, in his account of these discoveries in the Transactions of the Berks Archaeological Society for 1881-2, p. 45, writes : " Some relics of an early date were found in the Plummery Ditch (on the *north side* of this headland). They consist of bones of a large ox or bison, and osseous remains of an ox domesticated by the Romans. Bones also of a horse, dog, and a *fragment of a human skull, and pottery of a rude character*, and some pieces of glass form part of the collection." (Now in the Reading Museum.) These remains prove incontestably that the *eastern extremity* of the headland was occupied by prehistoric races, ages before the Roman

invasion; that it was inhabited during the Roman-British period, and, subsequently, in Anglo-Saxon times. A portion of this high ground, now a public garden, is termed the "Forbury;" a name obviously derived from the A.S. "Forburh," a vestibule: that is, a portion of ground *before*, or in front of the "*burg*," or "*bury*." A vestibule is a court or porch *through which* a building or habitation is *approached*. The early Saxon burgh, then, must have been seated at the *eastern* extremity of the headland, because the Forbury could never have formed a vestibule to the present town on its western side, since there never was any approach to it through that quarter.

The way to the Saxon bury was *through* the Forbury, and hence the name. The position of the once circular Danish intrenchment in the Forbury, now completely effaced, is very significant as to the locality of the original Saxon Burgh. It was formed just where such an earth-work, under a good military leader, would have been placed so as to command the Burgh on the promontory if intact, or to prevent its reoccupation if destroyed. Had the Saxon vill been on the *western* side of the Forbury, no invader would have intrenched himself in a position like this, where his chance of escape would have been cut away by any formidable descent from the town-quarter.

About half of the fosse was remaining until the formation of the Forbury Gardens, about the year 1858. The extremities of the arc extended from the western half of the Abbey gateway to a point opposite the old bay-windowed house used by the Messrs. Fuller and May. According to Mr. Coates' Map, dated 1802, the arc was as nearly a semicircle as possible; the line of the *front* of the buildings from the Assize Courts to the old house before mentioned, forming the chord of the segment. This ditch or fosse was in some parts at least six or seven feet in depth, and about four or five yards in width. The southern half was obviously filled in at the construction of the Abbey gateway, and other original buildings to the west of it. When intact, the intrenchment was at least ninety yards in diameter.

The history of this Danish incursion is thus given by Roger de Hoveden (*temp.* Hen. II.):—"Anno 871. The Danes, marching into Wessex, came to Reading, situated on the south side of the river Thames, in the county of Berks. On the third day after their arrival, two of their leaders, with a part of their army, went on a foraging

party, the remainder, in the meantime, being employed in throwing up an intrenchment between the Thames and the Kennett on the right side of the town of Reading. These (the foragers) were met by Ethelwulf, Earl of Berks, at a place called Englefield, that is, 'The Field of the English.' Here both parties fought with the utmost animosity, till one of the Danish generals being killed, and their army being either routed or destroyed, the Saxons obtained a complete victory. Four days after this battle, King Ethelred and his brother Elfred having collected their forces, marched to Reading, killing and destroying all before them as far as the gates of the fortification ('arcis'). At length the Danes, sallying out from all the gates (ports), attacked the victorious army, when after a long and bloody battle the Danes obtained the victory."

It is probable that the mound in the Forbury, close by this old earthwork, was originally a "tumulus," though it may have been modified in later times: if not of pre-historic origin, it may cover the remains of the slaughtered Danes interred after the struggle *on this spot* in the year 871, when they overcame the Saxons, flushed with victory on their return from Englefield. By this defeat, the Danes became masters of the field, and nothing can be conceived more natural than that they should bury their dead after their wonted manner. They died the death of heroes, and as such it was fitting the high mound should be raised over them. Curiously enough, this mound is on the verge of the Saxon cemetery, though this is not of uncommon occurrence: thus there is a fine barrow in the old churchyard at Taplow, Bucks; and there are tumuli contiguous to the churchyards at Morley, Derbyshire, and Puttenham, co. Surrey. The old church was undoubtedly of no great antiquity at the time of its removal by Henry I., for the burg then clustering round it had been burnt by the Danes only 115 years before, and the original Saxon sanctuary (probably a humble structure of wood) undoubtedly perished in that conflagration.

If Leland and Camden had only adhered to the words of the original historian of this transaction, it would have prevented much misconception in later times with regard to the early topography of the town. There was no castle in Reading, properly so called, before the time of King Stephen, and this was destroyed about two or three years after its erection by King Henry II. It would appear

from the valuable evidence mentioned by Coates, p. 145, to have stood on the site of the old gaol in Castle Street ; but this evidence, so weighty, he seems inclined to set aside.

Site of the Original Church.

In Anglo-Saxon times, parish churches and parish churchyards were inseparable ; and this arose from the almost natural desire of Christians to be interred, if not within, at least as near the walls of their sanctuaries as possible. This privilege of interment within the towns and cities of England was procured by St. Cuthbert, Abp. of Canterbury, who died A.D. 758 (Weever, *Fun^l. Mon^{ts}.*, p. 8). From this time, therefore, it may be affirmed that there was no parish church in this country without its adjacent cemetery, and no Christian graveyard without its church.

The original burial-ground of St. Lawrence's parish before A.D. 1557, lay on the north side of the Abbey, as appears from an entry of that date in the churchwardens' accounts, and far away from the present parish church. As this arrangement was a deviation from the universal custom, there must have been some special cause.

The Abbey Church, to which the *parish* burial-ground was contiguous, was *never* the parish church, and as the parishioners from the remotest times had no other place for general interment, we must look back to a period *anterior* to the foundation of the Abbey for the solution of the difficulty. It must be this :—

That the old parish church of St. Lawrence, before the foundation of the Abbey, stood *within* or *near* this ancient *parish* cemetery—stood, in fact, in the heart of the old Saxon Burgh ; for the situation of these early graveyards was regulated entirely by the position of the church, and not *vice versâ*. One thing is very certain, that if the parishioners of St. Lawrence had not possessed the right of interment there *before* the foundation of the Abbey by Henry I., they would not so easily have obtained that right afterwards, because the precincts of the Abbey were extra-parochial.

The old parish church was without doubt demolished by Henry I. in A.D. 1121, to make room for the magnificent church of his new monastic foundation, most probably built on its site. The old Saxon church would be used in

common by the inhabitants of the Burgh, and the members of the Convent of Leveva. In the adjoining churchyard then, situated as it was near the centre of the Saxon Burgh, lie the remains of the first Christian population of Reading, and, it may be, of the prehistoric population too; for the sites of heathen temples were frequently selected for the erection of Christian churches, and the bodies of the faithful were deposited near the ashes of their pagan ancestors. (The churchyard of Ribchester, co. Lancaster, occupies the site of a Roman Temple dedicated to Minerva.)

It is not improbable that the Saxon church was dedicated to St. Matthew, because of the fair formerly held in the Forbury on St. Matthew's Day. Many of our old fairs have grown out of the dedication festivals of the churches where they are held, and are even now frequently coincident with these commemorations.

The Saxon vill, with its humble church and convent, have long since passed away, and the stately monastic foundation which supplanted them is now a crumbling ruin—a perishing fragment of its former grandeur; whilst the parish church of St. Lawrence, the single representative of these ancient associations, and the hereditary successor of the church of the Saxon Burg, still survives. That she may long continue to inherit the venerable prestige which time has conferred upon her, is the earnest hope of one whose chiefest privilege is to minister within her walls.

Domesday Survey.

The earliest survey of Reading is in Domesday Book, completed A.D. 1086.

The account is divided into three distinct portions :—

1. The survey of the Hundred of Reading.
2. The survey of the Burgh or Bury; and
3. The survey of the Church and its lands.

In the absence of direct evidence, it seems probable that the Hundred of Reading was co-extensive with the parishes of St. Lawrence, St. Mary, and St. Giles.

The Hundred.

(TRANSLATION.)

“THE KING HOLDS READING IN DEMESNE. KING EDWARD (THE CONFESSOR) HELD IT. IN READING HUNDRED. THEN, AND NOW, IT DEFENDS ITSELF FOR FORTY-THREE HIDES. THE ARABLE LAND IS FORTY CARUCATES. ONE IS IN DEMESNE. FIFTY-FIVE VILLEINS, AND THIRTY BORDARS, WITH FIFTY-FIVE PLOUGHS. THERE ARE FOUR MILLS OF EIGHTY-FIVE SHILLINGS, AND THREE FISHERIES OF FOURTEEN SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE, AND A HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE ACRES OF MEADOW. THE WOODS ARE SUFFICIENT FOR ONE HUNDRED PIGS. OF PASTURE, TO THE VALUE OF SIXTEEN SHILL. AND SIX PENCE. IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD AND AFTERWARDS, IT WAS WORTH FORTY POUNDS, NOW FORTY-EIGHT POUNDS.”

The Bury or Burgh.

“THE KING HAS IN THE BURY (*“habet in Burgo”*) OF READING, TWENTY-EIGHT HOUSES (*“hagas,” or homesteads*), PAYING FOUR POUNDS FOUR SHILL. FOR ALL CUSTOMS. NEVERTHELESS, HE WHO NOW HOLDS IT PAYS A HUNDRED SHILL. HENRY DE FERRARS HAS A HOUSE THERE, AND HALF A VIRGATE (*twelve acres and a half*) OF LAND, IN WHICH ARE FOUR ACRES OF MEADOW WORTH SIX SHILL. GODRIC THE SHERIFF HELD THIS

LAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF HARBOURAGE (“*ad hospicium*”). HENRY NOW HOLDS THE SAME. REINBALD, THE SON OF PETER THE BISHOP, HELD ONE HOUSE THERE, WHICH HE HAS ANNEXED TO HIS MANOR OF EARLEY. IT IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE KING, AND IS WORTH SIXTEEN SHILL. PER ANNUM.”

Here we have a picture of Saxon Reading. There were only thirty homesteads within the Burgh, two of which were clearly of the better class. It was then a mere hamlet of wooden houses of one story, and covered with straw and reeds. The next item is very interesting :—

“Henry de Ferrars holds a homestead and twelve and a half acres in the Burgh, in which are four acres of meadow of the value of six shillings. Godric the sheriff held this land *for harbourage*. This expression, ‘*ad hospitium*,’ is very remarkable, and in the absence of direct evidence, I am much disposed to believe that it was the plot of ground now called the ‘Forbury,’ which was not then so circumscribed on its western and southern sides as at present; and the hospitality or harbourage was the accommodation it afforded for the encampment of the itinerant tradesmen and others who frequented the festivals or fairs of those days.”

The Church and its Lands.

“HE, THE ABBOT (*i.e.*, of *Battle in Sussex*), HOLDS A CHURCH IN READING WITH EIGHT HIDES THERE APPERTAINING. LEVEVA, THE ABBESS, HELD IT OF KING EDWARD. THEN, IT DEFENDED ITSELF FOR EIGHT, NOW, FOR SEVEN HIDES OF LAND, AND SEVEN CARACUTES IN THE LORDSHIP. THERE ARE NINE LABOURERS (*villani*), AND EIGHT FARMERS (*bordarii*), WITH FIVE PLOUGHS. THERE ARE TWO MILLS OF ELEVEN SHILL^s, AND TWO FISHERIES AND A HALF OF FIVE SHILL^s. IN READING ARE TWENTY-NINE RUINOUS COTTAGES, OF 28s. 8d., AND TWELVE ACRES OF MEADOW. WOODS FOR FIVE PIGS. THE CHURCH PRODUCES THREE POUNDS. IN THE TIME OF KING EDWARD IT WAS VALUED AT 9*l.*, AFTERWARDS AT 8*l.*, AND NOW AT 11*l.*”

The church was originally held by Leveva, the abbess of the Saxon convent which was burnt by the Danes at a second incursion in 1006, and which does not appear to have recovered from that disaster. In the year 1076 the

Conqueror founded the Abbey of Battle in Sussex, and between this date and the year 1085 the endowments of the old Reading convent, including the church and its lands, were granted to the monks of Battle, having been in lay hands since the visit of the Danes. ‘*Sciatis quod tres abbatiae in Regno Angliæ peccatis suis exigentibus olim destructæ sunt Radingia scilicet atque Chelseya et Leominstria quas manus laica diu possedit carumque terras et possessiones alienando distraxit.*’ (Foundation Charter, Hen. I. Dugdale, iv. 40.)

On the foundation of Reading Abbey, this estate was withdrawn from the monks of Battle and given to the new convent at Reading; certain lands at Apeldreham, with the farm of Bosham, the wood of Bocfalde and Betlesparrioc, with Yringesmed being given to Battle in exchange. (*Vid. Cayley and Ellis’ Dugdale*, iii. 233—“*Alia Carta eiusdem Regis pro excambio de Rading.*”)

The estate near Reading, called Battle Farm, may probably serve to identify some of these old church lands, which amounted to about 1,540 acres at the Domesday survey.

In 1120 the eastern part of the Forbury appears to have been cleared of every obstacle by Henry I. for the foundation of the Abbey; even the old church of the Burgh was swept away, and re-erected just outside the projected boundary of the new monastery. Parker, in his introduction to the “Study of Gothic Architecture,” p. 29, gives an interesting parallel:—

“The Conqueror, having taken possession of about a quarter of the old city of Lincoln to build a castle upon, and Bishop Remigius having purchased nearly another quarter to build a cathedral and monastery, the Saxon inhabitants were driven down the hill on which the old city stands, and took possession of some swampy land at the foot of the hill, which they drained and redeemed from the fens or marshes, of which nearly all the low country then consisted. On this new land they built several churches.”

The church of Reading Abbey appears to have been completed in the year 1163, when it was consecrated by St. Thomas a Becket.

“It was endlebe hundred ȝer & sixti & two
Of grace that Sein Tomas was archebissop tho
The next ȝer therafter as it wold be
Endlebe hundred ȝer of grace & sixti & thre
He halwede as the King him bed, the Church of Redinge
That berst ifounded was, thoru Henri the other Kinge.”

(Rob. of Gloucester, Hearne, 469.)

The Norman Church

consisted of a simple nave with a tower at its western end, and probably an apsidal sacarium at the other, and, as the original boundary wall of the Abbey crossed the site of the present church from north to south, about the position of the Blagrove Memorial, it was obviously not more than half the length of the present structure.

The wall at the south-west corner of the nave for about 27 feet in length, and from 6 to 12 feet in height, is about five feet in thickness, and is unquestionably a remnant of this first sanctuary. It has no distinctive character, but as it is capped by a Norman window in a wall of reduced thickness, all this superstructure must be of later date than the lower work; and as the contiguous wall containing the doorway of A.D. 1196 is of precisely the same thickness as this upper masonry, I have no doubt they are coeval, and the little Norman window was reinserted then, at its original level. It is clearly *one of a series* long since destroyed, and is especially interesting.

The original tower was brought into its present form in 1458. During its restoration in 1882 several fragments of Norman work were brought to light, showing that it was either modified or reconstructed in 1458 with the materials of the earlier tower. The fragments found in 1882, and preserved in the ringing chamber, are—

1. A scalloped capital, showing a plain chambered abacus (c. 1120).
2. Another capital, very like those on the south doorway of the nave (c. 1196).
3. A piece of chevron moulding of largish proportions (c. 1120).
4. A piece of perpendicular moulding (c. 1430).

(All these formed the reverse side of old ashler stones in the angle turrets.)

There is another in-built fragment of Norman moulding in the north wall of the bell-chamber, on a level with the bell frames, forming the side of a "putlog" hole (c. 1120).

The presence of the second capital above mentioned, shows

that something was done to the tower in 1196, when the church was so much enlarged. A similar inference may be made from the moulding of 1430.

As the stones composing the piers and arches of the tower, as well as the voissiors of the great west window, are of a different material to the rest, they seem to point rather to a modification of the Norman tower in 1458 than to an entire reconstruction at that time; and it is not unlikely that the massive piers of the tower arches may contain the original Norman masonry beneath the covering or adaptations of 1458. Indeed, it is probable that the north and south walls of the tower to a considerable height remain as they were first constructed in 1120. They are more than five feet in thickness.

So rapidly did the town increase after the foundation of the Abbey, and so great were the claims on conventual hospitality, that it was found necessary to erect an outer hospitium for the relief of the poor, and to enlarge the church for the accommodation of increasing worshippers. Both of these great works appear to have been carried out by the good Abbot Hugh about the same time, and, as soon as completed, the church was assigned to the new hospicium, or, as it was called, "The Hospital of St. John the Baptist," in the seventh year of the pontificate of Hubert Walter, Bishop of Salisbury, A.D. 1196.

In this year, or about this time, the Norman church was enlarged to its present dimensions. Of the work of this period there remains—

1. The south doorway of the nave.
2. The piscina in the south wall.
3. The jamb of a window discovered above Blaggrave's monument, with shaft and capital like those of (No. 4).
4. The three lancets in the chancel.
5. The arcade between the chancel and the chapel of St. John the Baptist (perhaps a little later).
6. The two lancets blocked at the formation of the east window of the north chapel.
7. (Probably) the low blocked arch in the wall of the north aisle.

All these in their several positions show the *extent* of the additions made at this time.

There is a long list of subscribers on the roll of 1440-1, to the "work of the church" ("opus ecclesiæ"); but as the

sum of *8*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.** appears to have been expended this year on the tenements belonging to the church, and the aforesaid subscriptions amounted only to *9*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.**, it was probable that this was the purpose to which those contributions were applied, and that nothing material was then done to the fabric. In this account a few old terms occur which may be interesting :—We have “eves borde,” “borde nale,” “window nale,” “lath nale,” hertlath, suplath, crests, “zabul,” twysts, “dawbyng,” and “pynnyng.”

A Complete List of the Subscribers to the “Work of the Church” in 1440.

Dñs Hen. Coup vicar, <i>iijs^s iiij^d</i>	Johes Brown, smyth, <i>i^d</i>
Pætr' Dalamare, <i>iijs^s iiij^d</i>	Johes Barthelot, <i>iiij^d</i>
Johes Kirkeby, <i>vjs^s viij^d</i>	Witts Rede, <i>iiij^d</i>
Robt ^o Morys, <i>vjs^s viij^d</i>	Johes Morys, <i>iiij^d</i>
Witts Bryssele, <i>iijs^s iiij^d</i>	Emmota nup ^o relict Johis
Johes Deyr, <i>xx^d</i>	Plumer, <i>ij^d</i>
Witts Boteler, <i>xij^d</i>	Johes Kale, <i>iiij^d</i>
Witts Hunt, <i>vjs^s viij^d</i>	Johes Netter, <i>iiij^d</i>
Robt ^o Kayns, <i>vjs^s viij^d</i>	Hugo pchemyner, <i>iiij^d</i>
Witts Stapper, <i>xx^d</i>	Johes Taylour, <i>xij^d</i>
Thoñ Swayn, <i>ijs^s</i> (M.P. for	Ričus Monmouth, <i>ij^d</i>
Reading, 1426, died in	Witts Ludlowe, <i>vi^d</i>
1441).	Johes Benham, <i>xij^d</i>
Denys Coke, <i>ij^d</i>	Witts Drover, <i>xij^d</i>
Joh ^a ne Benton, <i>ij^d</i>	Witts Dyer, <i>xij^d</i>
Joh' Aleward, tyler, <i>vij^d</i>	Johes Mercham, <i>vjs^s viij^d</i>
Ričus Turnour, <i>vjs^s viij^d</i>	Johes Benet, <i>iiij^d</i>
Johes Wyse, <i>iijs^s iiij^d</i>	Robt ^o Brynger, <i>vij^d</i>
David ^o Gower, <i>iijs^s iiij^d</i>	Johes Pasteler, <i>vij^d</i>
Hen. Robf, <i>xij^d</i>	Heñ Hurtlond, <i>iiij^d</i>
Ricus Hawkeley, <i>xij^d</i>	Ričus Veston, <i>xij^d</i>
Witts Bartheran, <i>iiij^s</i>	Thom ^a s Hakker, <i>xx^d</i>
Henric ^o Boteler, <i>iiij^d</i>	Thom ^a s Culvhouse, <i>xij^d</i>
Thom ^a s Laurence, <i>vij^d</i> (cl ^o ic ^o)	Johes Garden, <i>xij^d</i>
poch dce eccle).	Edward' Dyer, <i>iijs^s iiij^d</i>
Johes Plumer, tyler, <i>xij^d</i>	Thom Coleshill, <i>iiij^d</i>
Robt ^o Budd, <i>vij^d</i>	Johes Reynolds, <i>ij^d</i>
Witts pvecote, <i>x^d</i>	Johes Stevyns, <i>iiij^d</i>
Johes Chaundeler, <i>xx^d</i>	Johes atte Hatch, <i>vij^d</i>
Hen' Ffurberoe, <i>xij^d</i>	Thom Hampton, <i>iiij^d</i>

Johes Canon, ij ^d	Thom ^a s Fferroure, ij ^d
Johes Barton, taillour, iiij ^d	Johes Colyns, vi ^d
Johes Bothenall, iiij ^d	Johes Buck, viij ^d
Witts Hyne, xij ^d	Johes atte Hethe, viij ^d
Agn' Gowler, iiij ^d	Ffelicia Weldere, ij ^d
Robt ^s Pasteler, viij ^d	Thom ^a s Luff, vi ^d
Johes Merk, ij ^d	Rog ^s Coke, xij ^d
Nichus Mountford, xij ^d	Johes Bernard, xx ^d
Radus Younge, ij ^s	Johes Hale, xii ^d
Ric' Ffarle, xx ^d	Ric ^u s Coup, vi ^d
Johes Vanner, vij ^d	Johes Heryng, viij ^d
Reginald Crokesley, iv ^d	Johes Est, iiij ^d
Johes Athelard, vi ^d	Witts Wever, iiij ^d
Ric ^u s Stovyle, ij ^d	Sm ^a ix li xvj ^s v ^d ob.
Margeria Baker, xx ^d	

In 1458 the churchwardens' roll gives the names of those who contributed to the "Emendation of the campanile;" but unfortunately the roll has been so much injured by damp, that almost the entire face of the skin has perished, and with it of course the record. There are only twenty-six names legible. In this year the original bell tower was brought into its present form.

At this time the arches between the nave and north aisle, erected in 1196 by Abbot Hugh, were probably reconstructed. The springing of the arches from the responds at the east and west ends of the arcade between the nave and aisle give the original height of the capitals.

The greenish-tinted stone was now first introduced, and it may enable us to detect the alterations of this period. We find it in the tower arches, the newel at the south-east corner, the voissiors of the great west window, the nave arches, the *sides* of the niches in the spandrels, and the windows of the north aisle. Hence we may infer that the lancets of 1196, formerly in the north aisle, were now supplanted by the present windows. A corresponding series were also inserted in the south wall, the easternmost window excepted; *teste*, the old engravings of the church, especially one by "Shury and Son." Another, if it may be relied upon, shows one window on each side of the nave doorway, exactly like those in the north aisle; and another, the second from the east end of this wall, of a still later character.

The last alteration took place about the year 1521,

though something was begun as early as 1518, as appears by the following entry in the church books :—

- “ Item, gyven by dyſce pſons toward the repacōn of the church gatherid euy Sonday after new yer^s day unto Sonday aft^r Michelmas day which amounteth to the s^m of (as apperith by a boke of their names) xxi^{li} ij^s j^d.
 “ It. payd to Myller the Joyno^r in pte of paymēt iiiij^{li} vi^s viij^d for makyng of the pclose in the new chapell, xxvi^s viij^d.
 “ It. payd to Harry Horthorne for tymbre workman-shypp, and for bowrdyng of men as apperith by his bill^s, vij^{li} iiiij^d.”

A new vestry seems to have been constructed this year, containing a separate altar.

- “ Anno 1520-1. It. paid for a hose cloth gyven to the ouscer of My lord Cardynall^s werks to licence Chayney the mason to cū from thens, iiiij^s iiiij^d (from Hampton Court).
 “ It. paid to John Knyght for colyng of the rode lofte and the imag^s xiiij^d.
 “ It. paid for charg^s in Ridyng for Chayney the Mason, ij^s iiiij^d.
 “ It. paid to Harry Cobbe in pte of vj^s for takyng downe of the bracis of the beamys & for setting vpp of vj new corsis, ij^s.
 “ It. paid to White the belfounder for arrerag^s of the glasse for *the new wyndowes in the quere* in full payment for the same wyndows, xiiij^s iiiij^d.
 “ Anno 1521-2. It. payd for the tymber & sawyng of viij Corvetts for the *new arches*, viij^d.
 “ It. payd to my laborar^s for besynes done yn the chyrch when the new arches were mayd, iiiij^s xi^d.”

From this we learn the exact date of the present four-centred arches between the nave and aisle. The previous ones of 1458 were not considered sufficiently lofty, so the columns were now raised and the arches stilted : the intervening niches were covered with crowns (perhaps in the place of loftier canopies), and new bases adorned with cherubs and shields attached to the whole. The devices on these shields, proceeding from east to west, are as follow :—

1. A shield bearing a gridiron for St. Lawrence.
2. Two chevrons between three roses. Probably intended

for "Wickham;" argt. 2 chev. sa., between 3 roses gules, seeded or, barbed vert.

3. A shield bearing a rebus, consisting of a tun impressed with the letter "B," intended no doubt for Baynton (B-in-Tun, or, B-on-Tun). Richard Baynton was one of the officiating clergy in 1524. "It. to S^r Ric. Baynton for mendyng the grett organs at ij tymes iiij^s." The same year *his chamber* was repaired at an outlay of 1*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*
4. A shield with a chevron between 3 tuns.
5. A shield bearing 3 chevrons between 3 bezants, or tортаaux.

There is another shield behind this in the north aisle, with a rose in the centre. The remaining shields in the north aisle are without devices.

The old chancel arch was coeval with the lancets at the east end, c. 1196, and was about *five feet narrower than the present one*, erected under Mr. Ferrey about 1848. At that time Mr. Billing discovered the stairs to the rood loft in the south pier. The steps were then removed, and the hole was filled with rubble and grouting to form a stronger abutment for the new chancel arch.

The old views of the church exhibit two dormer windows in the south side of the nave roof; one near the tower, and another over the south doorway inclining to the east. The former of these was of no very recent date:—

"Anno 1521. It. payd to Henry Horethorne for the wyndow yn the south syde of the chyrch next the stepyll besyds y^t he have gyven, vij^s viij^d."

"It. payd for half a b^z of tyle pynes occupied ou the wyndow, ij^d ob."

There were similar windows inserted in the north and south sides of the chancel roof, and three more over the north aisle looking northwards.

For repairs of the chancel see under *Vicars*:—"JOHN SMITH."

The writer has received a most interesting communication from Mr. Arthur Billing, architect and surveyor, 185, Tooley Street, London Bridge, relating to some discoveries made at the restoration of the two chancels about forty years ago. The notes were taken at that time:—

"Immediately beneath the triplet windows in the east wall of the chancel were discovered the remains of three

'Aumbries' or 'Lockers,' in one of which was a portion of wood and iron work remaining, evidently showing that they were once closed by doors, and were probably used for keeping the sacred vessels and other articles of that description. These had been completely hidden by the large wooden altar screen of the Georgian era. Upon the south side of the chancel, at the eastern end, was found a large portion of a piscina, but the bowl altogether gone. There had also been sedilia, but these had been entirely taken out, and the place filled up with brickwork.

"On the south side of St. John's Chapel, in the portion of wall forming the respond to the eastern arch of the arcade separating the chancel from the chapel, was also discovered a piscina nearly perfect, with the exception of a part of the bowl being broken. This, together with the piscina, the aumbries, and the sedilia in the chancel, have all been entirely filled up.

"P.S.—Several portions of the rood screen were found under the nave floor, near the chancel arch.

"I have a sketch and plan of the slabs with their legends lying in the chancel and in the north chapel."

The Tower.

The stately tower of St. Lawrence's is one of the finest specimens of ecclesiastical architecture in the county, and is justly considered the chiefest ornament of the town. From whatever point it may be viewed, its exquisite proportions cannot fail to strike the observer. The parishioners and townsmen have shown their appreciation of the treasure, by restoring it to its pristine beauty. The structure is divided into three stages or stories, defined by exterior string courses: the lowest is open to the body of the church, the second forms the ringing chamber, and the uppermost contains one of the most musical rings of bells in the south of England. Octagonal buttresses occupying the angles terminate in lofty embattled pinnacles crowned with spirelets, which rise to an elevation of 111 feet, or 23 feet above the top of the battlements.

The uppermost windows are a careful reproduction of the old ones existing in 1881; and, although they are somewhat incongruous in their character, it was thought better thus to preserve the architectural history of the building,

than to resort to a more correct type, but of no local authority.

The *original* south window was probably first destroyed for the admission of the great bell Harry, in 1498. At its first recasting in 1567, it was lowered, and readmitted through this opening :

“Anno 1567. For xliij foote of boorde for y^e south window in the steeple where the bell was taken out and in, and one hondreth & a half of nayles, 11s. vjd.”

It is probable that the tracery just removed, of which the present is a copy, was of this period.

The canopied niches on either side the tower doorway were formerly occupied by statues of St. Lawrence and St. Vincent. These figures are now preserved in the Vicarage garden, but are in a sadly mutilated condition. The effigy of St. Lawrence shows the remains of a fringed purse on the left side, but the sustaining hand and arm are broken off. He is habited in alb, tunicle, and dalmatic, the orfrays of which exhibit a grape and vineleaf pattern, with an undulating stem. The statue of St. Vincent is habited in a similar costume, but is less perfect. The original heads of both effigies have been destroyed. The backs of the figures are bevelled, to adapt them to the recesses they once occupied. Mrs. Jamieson says: “St. Vincent is usually grouped with St. Lawrence: the Spanish legend makes them brothers, but I find no authority for this relationship in the French and Italian Martyrologies.”

Mr. Coates, in his “History of Reading,” writes: “On each side of the door are two niches for images, with two escutcheons of arms in stone now greatly defaced; on one were the arms of Reading Abbey, and on the other the arms of William Aiscoth, or Ayscough (a chevron between three asses), impaled with the arms of the See of Salisbury, of which he was Bishop from 1438 to 1450.” These arms are given by Capt. Symonds in his “Notes” taken April 3, 1644, the arms of the Abbey being then on the south side of the doorway. In 1806 the whole of the stonework of the tower was coated with Roman cement, and the old carvings reproduced in the same plastic material, the two escutcheons above mentioned included.

Owing to objections having been made by an influential tradesman, the arms of the See of Salisbury (the Blessed Virgin and Child) have not been reproduced. This is much

to be regretted, for in every honest restoration original types should be carefully followed.

Ancient edifices are not exponents of modern thought: we restore them in their integrity as relics of the past; as monuments of a bygone age. In stamping them with our own impress, we falsify history and the history of art, and proclaim our own incompetence to deal with the precious heirlooms our generous forefathers have bequeathed to their children.

On the south-west pinnacle of the tower is the following inscription:—

“THIS TOWER
WAS NEW ROOFED
AUGUST 1864,
W. H. W. STAVELEY
J. T. MORRIS
CHURCHWARDENS.”

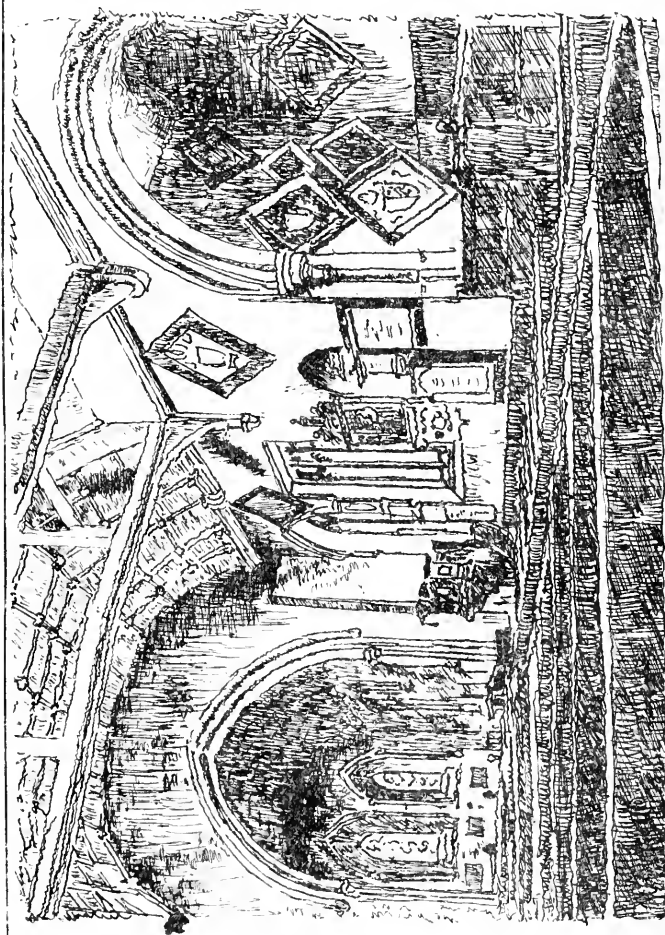
In 1806, as before stated, the decayed ashler work of the tower was injudiciously repaired with Roman cement—even the face of the window tracery and of all the mouldings of the windows and doorways had been hewn away to be reproduced in stucco; it was very creditably done, too, for the period.

In 1881–2 the tower and west end of the aisle were thoroughly restored, all the pinnacles reinstated, the one at the south-west angle *rebuilt*, the window tracery and doorways renewed, and all the decayed stonework replaced, under the care of Joseph Morris, Esq., architect, by Mr. Higgs, builder and contractor, at a cost of about £2,000.

Knowles' Transept.

This adjunct, resembling a transept, was erected on the south side of the church about midway between the south door and the west end of the nave, by Sir Francis Knollys the elder, in 1637,* “For the peculiar use of himself and his posteritie, as well for their seates there, as for their burial-place underneath. And to that end and purpose, the Lord Bishop of the diocese in his own person, according to the ecclesiastical lawes of this realme, consecrated the same to be united and holden as a parte and member of the said church for ever.” (*Coates*.)

* “On the outside of the aisle was this inscription, ‘Sr. F. K. 1633.’”—(*Coates*.)



C. Kerry. del.

INTERIOR OF CHURCH. KNOLLYS' TRANSEPT.

According to an old engraving, it had on its west side a flat-headed window of three lights overlooking the roof of the piazza. On the south side was a large pointed window of three lights, with a flat-headed doorway beneath, and a small square-headed window above. Its southern limit was coterminous with the front of the piazza. The following achievements, given by Mr. Coates, formerly adorned its walls:—

- “ 1. Quarterly 1st, and 4th, a cross moline voided throughout, between twelve cross crosslets or (*Knollys*) ; 2nd, and 3rd, Gules, on a chevron arg^t, three roses proper (*Cave*).
- “ 2. 1st (*Knollys*). 2nd sable, on a bend, cotised, azure, three lioncels passant guardant of the second. 3rd, Gules a lion rampant or. 4th, Azure, a fesse, betw. three fleur-de-lis or. 5th, Chequy, or and azure. 6th Sable, a frette or.
- “ 3. 1st Azure, a chevron gu. betw : three ravens sable. 2nd Gu : a talbot passant, or : A chief ermine. 3rd Sa. a chev : az : between three escallops or. 4th Argent, on a cross sa : a leopard's face, or (*Bridges*), impaling Knollys.
- “ 4. Or, five crescents azure, impaling (*Knollys*).
- “ 5. (*Knollys*) ; with the crest, an elephant arg^t.
- “ 6. 1st, and 4th, (*Knollys*). 2nd, Gu : on a chev. arg^t three roses proper. 3rd, party per pale ermine and gu : three talbots heads counterchanged. Over all an escutcheon of pretence—1st, and 4th, sa. a chev : ermine betw. three fishes haurient, argent. 2nd and 3rd, az : a fesse chequy or and sable betw. three eagles displayed of the second.
- “ 7. (*Knollys*), bearing an escutcheon of pretence, party per pale ermine and gu : three talbots heads, counterchanged. On each side of the shield are two small escutcheons—1st (*Knollys*), impaling—sable, a saltire engrailed or. 2nd (*Knollys*), impaling—azure on a fesse sable, three escallops or.
- “ 8. (*Knollys*), quartering the talbots, counterchanged as before ; and bearing an escutcheon of pretence, the same as No : 6.”

The preceding were in Knollys' chapel. Mr. Coates mentions other escutcheons, which may be inserted here :—

“ Over the staircase leading to the north gallery, hangs this

achievement ; 1st (*Blaggrave*) ; 2nd Gules, a lion couchant, or on a chief arg^t, three crescents of the first. (*Deane*.) 2nd Barry of six, or and az : on a fesse gu : three mullets of the second. (*Merrick*.)

On the south side of the church is this achievement :— 1st or, a chief indented sable, a lion passant guardant of the same for *Loggins*. 2nd, party per pale, or, and sable, four griffins heads erased, counterchanged. 3rd, arg^t, a fesse, vert, between three maunches of the same for *Staverton*. 4th, arg^t, a plain cross sable, in the first quarter, a fleur-de-lis of the second."

The remains of the Knollys' family were to have been removed at the demolition of the structure, but it was never done, and the outer pavement now covers the graves of numerous members of this family.

Blaggrave's Piazza.

This structure consisted of a covered walk, extending from the south-west tower buttress or staircase to the west wall of Knollys' transept. The south front exhibited six arches, each of which was capped by a double ogee-shaped gable. The west front presented a single arch (round like the rest), with engaged flat columns, or rather pilasters, on either side. In the gable above was a stone tablet with the following inscription :—

IOHANNES BLAGRAVIVS
 GENEROSUS, MATHESIOSQUE
 ENCOMIIS CELEBERRIMUS,
 LIBRAS C. AD AMBULACRUM
 HOC EXTRUENDUM DEDIT, QUOD
 OPUS MAJOR BURGENSESQUE (PIÆ
 BENEFICII HUIUS INTER CÆTERA
 MEMORIÆ ERGO) PERFICIENDUM
 CURARUNT,
 FEB. 1, 1619.
 REPARATUM & ADORNATUM
 ANNO 1680.

The easternmost compartment of this portico adjoining the Knollys chapel, had been converted into a cell for delinquents, and a playful story is told of a former churchwarden (not a member of the "Blue Ribbon Army") having been compelled to spend an evening there to recruit his



H. E. Pencil, 1848

THE TUMBRIL.

shattered powers before the morrow's dawn. It was thenceforth spoken of as the "Churchwarden's Pew."

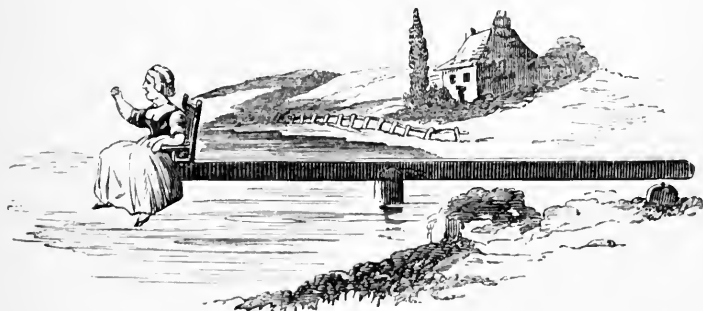
Beneath this piazza, too, and within the memory of many, stood the "stocks," an old-fashioned instrument of parochial discipline, seen in almost every village and town in England fifty years ago.

In the churchwardens' accounts for 1638, mention is made of a "*Tumbrel*," deposited, no doubt, under the piazza with the stocks, and perhaps the pillory too; for this last instrument was in existence a few years ago, when it was sold with some rubbish which had been deposited in the chamber beneath the old town-hall.

The "tumbrel," or "cucking stool," was specially designed for the correction of scolds, brawlers, and women of unlawful condition. Of this instrument there were two kinds: one consisted of a long plank balanced on an axis carried by two wheels. To one end of the plank was attached a chair, in which the offender was secured; the other was grasped by the officials of *justice* (?) (too often by those whose private piques rendered them merciless administrators), and then bowled to the water's edge, where, by a see-saw-like action, the poor culprit was alternately elevated and immersed.

Mr. Burn, in his "*History of Henley-on-Thames*," observes: "Another form of cucking stool was a post set up in the water, upon which was a transverse beam turning on a swivel, with a chair at one end of it, and the other end fastened with lock and chain to a short post in the ground. To this *fixed* machine Gay refers in his lines on Sparabilla, who thinks of committing suicide:—

I'll speed me to the pond, where the high stool
On the long plank hangs o'er the muddy pool,
That stood the dread of every scolding quean:
Yet—sure a lover should not die so mean."



Halliwell writes : "The tumbrel was originally used for the punishment of offences against the assize, but was afterwards used for scolds and prostitutes, and continued in vogue in some places till the middle of the last century. The sitting in the chair with the head and feet bare, was also used as a penance, unaccompanied with the ducking, and the form of the stool contributed to increase the degradation."

Roof.

In 1410, the church, or a portion of it, was re-roofed with timber from "Erley," and the oldest roll of the churchwardens' accounts contains the names of 150 contributors to the work. One of the largest subscribers was John Kent, whose brass commemorating himself and his wife Joan, was removed from the chancel floor to the south wall last year for its better preservation. He died about 1415. Some of the largest contributors were John Hence, 4s. 4d.; William Baker, 4s. 4d.; John Tinte, 4s. 4d.; Rob. Peyntour, 4s.; John Bennett, 6s. 8d.; Gilbert Dyer, 17d.; John Lathum, 4s.; Robert Keynes, 8s. 8d.; John Swalolyf, 2s.; Philip Rich, 6s.; John Mercham, 13s.; Walter Baron, 4s. 4d.; Nicholas Barbour, 8s. 8d.; John Persy, 14s.; Will. Smyzt, 4s.; Ric. Pale, 4s. 4d.; Ric. Gos, 3s. 4d.; Hen. Couper, 4s. 4d.; Rob. Rythe, 22d.; Thomas Chandler, 6s.; John Kent, 13s.; Will. Peris, 4s. 4d.; Will. Boteler, 13s.; Joh. Ydefisch, 4s.; Nich. Copland, 2s. 4d.; Ric. Casse, 8s. 8d.; John Whyte, 8s. 8d.; John Bladier, 4s. 4d.; Joh. Wodemancote, 4s. 2d.; William Derby, glover (Wm. Derby was M.P. for Reading, 5 Ric. II. 1382); Nic. Spiser, 4s. 4d.; John Cras, 4s. 4d.; Ric. Glover, 4s. 4d.; Will. Carpenter, 4s. 4d.; Steph. Everard, 4s. 4d.; Rob. Baker, 4s. 4d.; Barthol. Clith, 4s. 4d.; Rob. Beche, 4s. 4d.; Rob. atte Lee, 4s. 4d.; Joh. Tylere, 2s.; John Cras gave for a Tyler for one day, 3d., &c. &c.

It is probable that much of the nave roof is of this date.

The roof of the north aisle was repaired with boards in 1524-5. The chancel roof was ceiled with panel work, or else repaired, the same year, and made resplendent with gold and colours.

The roof at the east end of the nave, from above Blgrave's monument to the chancel arch, at the beginning of this century, was elliptical and of panel work, with roses and other ornaments at each intersection of the groining. This

portion, showing the extent of the ancient rood loft, was removed at the restoration of the nave in 1867. A dormer window was inserted in the "selyng" of the rood loft in 1436, by John Hale, who received 28s. 4d. for his labours.

The Church "Reconciled."

Anno 33-4 Hen. VIII. (1542-3).

"Payd to the Suffregan in money for reconsyleyng the churche, xl^s."

This entry implies a desecration of the fabric by blood-shedding, or some other profanation.

The culprits are clearly indicated :—

"Itm. Rec. of Robt. Watlyngton to pay the Suffregan for reconsyleyng the churche, xx^s."

"Itm. Rec. of Mark Awsepp towards the same, x^s."

"Itm. Rec. of Robt. Letsh^am towards the same, iij^s. iij^d."

"Sm^a xxxiiij^s. iij^d."

Mark Awsepp, *the sexton*, was discharged from his office on Lady Day the same year, and one Richard — appointed in his place.

"It. to mark his di yeres wayges endyd at thannūcia-tion of o^r ladie last iij^s. vj^d." "It. to the *newe* sexton for a q^ar^t waiges endyd at Mchelmas last past xij^s. iij^d."

The next accounts, beginning at Michaelmas the same year, place Robert Watlington at the *head* of the *interment* list :—

"Rec. for the grave of Robt. Watlyngton & couyng, vij^s. iij^d." "Rec. for the knyll & tolyng at the monethe mynde of Robt. Watlyngton, xvj^d."

This is significant, and seems to point to a serious fray, in which Watlington, obviously the aggressor, from the extent of his fine, received very serious, if not mortal, injuries.

The Font.

The charge for the Font Taper occurs yearly in the church accounts from their commencement to the Reformation.

1503-4. "It. payed for lettyng hyer the coulyng of the font, ob." (a halfpenny).

1508. "It. payed for a padlok to the font, iij^d."

1510. "It. payed for ij. bꝝ (bushels) of colys at the halowyng of the vante, ij^d."

1521-2. "Rec. for led of the old font sold, vij^s."

"It. payd for bordyng of the olde seatts where the old font stode, & for makeyng of a seate at the west doore, xvij^d."

"It. payd for makeyng of the cou for the ffonte, xij^d."

1522. It. to Chenye the mason for makeyng the fronte, xxxi^s. viij^d."

„ "It. payd to the plūmar for makeyng the font and mendyng of the stepull, ix^s. x^d."

"Chenye" appears to have been employed at Cardinal Wolsey's new works at Hampton Court. His services were procured for St. Lawrence's by an effective honorarium:—

1520. "It. paid for a Hose cloth gyven to the ouſeer of my lord Cardynalls werks to licence Chayney the mason to cū fro thens, iij^s. iij^d."

"It. paid for chargis in Ridyng for Chaney the mason, iij^s. iij^d."

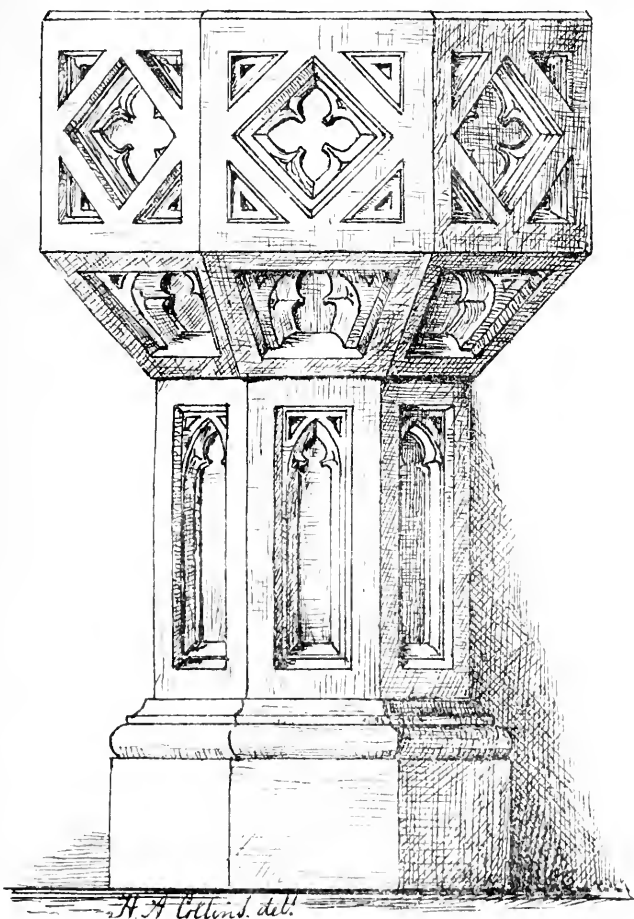
1526. "It. for new burneshyng the Crysmatorye, vj^d."

1576. "Expenses in masons worke about removing of the font & paving, xvj^s. viij^d."

1639. "It. p^d to John Milkesop for a brasse cock for the font, 4^s. 6^d."

(For the ancient position of the fonts, see article "Seats," anno 1538.)

Unfortunately, the old font of 1521-2 has been submitted to the "drag," and its venerable aspect greatly injured during the present century; but it is the identical font made by Master Cheyney, and the font to which the parents and sponsors of Archbishop Laud brought him in his infancy for Holy Baptism. A few traces of original colouring may still be seen on the bowl and shaft.



THE FONT.

Altars.

No less than twelve altars bearing distinct names are mentioned in the churchwardens' accounts, but it is hardly probable that so many existed in the church at the same time. An imperfect inventory of 1523 gives the names of five, but it omits the "High" altar and that of "Jesus," so there must have been at least seven at that period.

Six altars were sold in 1549, one of which was St. Clement's, and the Lady altar is not in the list, so that at the Reformation there would seem to have been EIGHT, unless the altar of the B. Virgin had been re-dedicated, which is not at all probable; indeed, the "Lady Mass" is mentioned as late as 1546, so that that altar must then have been in existence.

"M^d. that in the yere of our lorde 1557 & the iiij^d & iiijth yer^s of the reignes of our Souaigne lord & ladye Phillipp & Marye by the g^{ace} of God Kyng & Quene of Englond, &c., the Second Day of May beyng Sondag, Witlm ffynche Suffrigan vnto the Bisshopp of Bathe & Welles hath hallowed the church yarde of the pishe of Saynt Laurence in Redyng. And also the same day & yere hath hallowed in the seid pishe fyve awters of stone that is to witte the High Awter of Saynt Laurence; in the chauncell next called St. Johns Chauncell one awter called Saynte Johns Alter: in the body of the church the myddell alter ther called Jhus Alter: in the South syde ther one Alter called our ladye Awter of the Nativitie: and in the north side ther one Awter called Saynt Thomas Awter."

In the accounts ending Michaelmas, 1559, we have

"Itm. for takinge downe the awlters & laying the stones, v^s."

"To Loryman (the clerk) for carryeng out the rubbysh, x^d."

A description of these old altars will be interesting, as serving to show the attachment and devotion of our forefathers to the service of God, and what great sacrifices they must have made to make the place of His Name glorious.

1. The High Altar.

This is first named in the roll of 1433.

Anno 1499. "It. payd for scowryng of þ^e iiij candylstyks at þ^e hy aut^r xij^d. (the two great standards and the two candlesticks on the altar).

Anno 1503. "It. payed for whipcord to draw þ^e blak cloth at sakⁿ j^g of masse i^d."

(It was a custom in the old English church to draw a veil before the altar during the consecration of the elements in accordance with the words: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man to conceive the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.")

1508. "Itm. payed for a carpynt^r's lyne to draw the black sarsenet before the sacramēt at the Hy Aulter, i^d."

1510. "Itm. payed for a small lyne to hange the kanape ou^r the Hy auter."

1513. "Payd to Robt. Hawtrell for removynge of the front of the Hygh Aut^r, & setting upp of the same in Seynt Johns Chaⁿcell, &c. xiiij^s."

A *new* altar appears to have been erected in 1514.

"It. payd to a Suffrygan for Halowyng of the High Aw^t, Seynt Johns aw^t & a supaltare, vi^s viij^d."

"It. payd to John Knyzt for makynge crossis to the Hygh Awtar & oþ^r's s^tvice, viij^d" (probably the five crosses at the centre and angles of the slab or mensa.)

In 1526 the story of the Transfiguration was painted on the wall above it, at a cost of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* (See under "Mural Paintings.")

"It. to Robt. Pasteler for making a skaffold & enlargeyng the High Aw^t iiij^s iiij^d."

Anno 1528. "It. for enlargyng the Aw^t clothes for the hygh Aw^t w^t all manⁿ' of stuff therto belongyng & workmanshypp as by a byll appereth, xxii^s ix^d."

A beam of brass passed over the chancel, from which lights were suspended before the sacrament.

Anno 1537. "Payd for skowryng the beam hangyng before the sac^ament, viij^d."

There were figures of the twelve Apostles, probably in niches in the reredos.

Anno 1518. "It. paid for wasshyng & dressyng of the Halpas w^t the xii Appostels xiiij^s. iiij^d. ("Haut-pas"—the highest level of the flooring in the sacrarium—the altar place).

Anno 1546-7. "Payd to a paynter for wrytyng of the cloth at the High Awl ij^s. iiij^d. (probably some covering for the defaced east wall).

In 1547 many things were sold : among the rest, a coffer, termed a "coffyn," belonging to the High Altar, purchased by Mr. Bureton (Walter Barton's nephew).

In 1549 the High Altar was purchased for 6s. 8d. by Mr. Bell.

There was a cupboard or almery standing at each end for books and utensils, probably concealed by projecting curtains.

The old stone aumbries, piscina, and *place* of sedilia were discovered and filled up with rubble, &c., at the restoration of the chancel in 1848.

At the commencement of Queen Mary's reign there was a return to the old order and ritual :—

Anno 1552-3. "Paid for making of the high Awl & paving in the church, xij^s."

There are plain indications in the accounts of this period of searching official inquiries with regard to the disposal of the goods of the church in the previous reign.

On the accession of Elizabeth the *régime* was again changed, as may be seen above at the commencement of this article.

Anno 1560. "Itm. for a seate of y^e comvnyon table and the boord and nayles and the workmanship, xiiij^d."

"Itm. for dressynge the high alter and the wall beneth and the bourdes where the altar stooode, ij^s. viij^d."

1568. "Itm. to Martyn Woodnett for makeinge of the frame for the coñunion table xxii^d."

"Itm. to Edward Paynter for colloringe of ye same, iii^d."

The following entry would seem to show that the ecclesiastical pendulum had swung to the other extreme:—

1569. "It. to the joynar for makying the coñunion table and benches with a doore, iij^s."

This is an early instance of an arrangement which prevailed in the later Puritanical era, when the altar was dragged from its normal position and placed in the middle of the chancel, the communicants being seated round it during the administration of the sacrament.

The next entry shows a return to the old position—perhaps under Laudean influence.

1634. "Paied to the jynor for making the new and mending the oulde winscotte *above the communion table*, 1*l.* 1*s.* 0*d.*"

"Paid for the communion table, 14*s.*"

1638. (Inventory):—

"Item, one velvet cover for the Cñon Table with silke fringe of the gift of Mrs. Saunders, price 8*l.*"

"One velvet quisheon and a booke of Coñion Prayer gilt for the Coñin Table of the gift of James Read & Mr. Henry, 3*l.*"

Mr. Coates, writing in 1802, says:—"The altar-piece is a plain handsome frontispiece of oak, containing in the two centre panels, in gold letters, on a black ground, the two tables of the Law; and in the side panels, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed. In the pediment, which is circular, is the tetragrammaton or word Jehovah, in Hebrew characters, with this text of Scripture: 'The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.' Below this: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men.'"

This Georgian screen was removed in 1848. Its place is now occupied by a reredos of stone, marble, and tile-work.

The Altar and Mass of Jesus.

Henry Kelsall, clothier, of Reading, who died in 1493, states in his will that he was the "fyrst mynder, susteyner,

and mayntener of the devocyon of the Masse of Jhu, kept and songen in the parisshe chirch of Saynte Lawrence in Reding."

Ten persons, called the "Brethren of the Mass of Jesus," formed the guild or brotherhood at that time : these were—

Richard Cleche, Draper.

John Baxtster, Tanner.

John Langham, "Iremonger."

Stephen Dunster, Draper.

Rauff Myllington, "Clothyer."

William Tru, "Yoman."

John Whylcokks, Chandler and ffishhemonger.

William Scochon, Draper.

Richard Smyth, Gent.

John Twytt. (See "Will of Kelsall.")

Anno 1505-6. "It. payed to Maister Cleche for old det du to Jhu masse."

This chauntry was refounded in 1506 by a licence granted by Hen. VII. to the inhabitants for that purpose.

It apears from the will of John Pownsar, 1522, that at that time a certain number of sisters were associated with this guild, and that they each contributed 6s. 8d. per annum to the funds.

Anno 1545. "Rec. of the Wardens of the Jhis masse for a teit in th m^lcat place next to the well for iiij yeres endid at thaunūciaōn A^o xxxvj^{to} at x^s by the yere.

"Rec. of the same Wardens for the same tent for An^o xxxi in the yere that M^r Cawode was warden and by hym rec. of John Poynt as apperithe uppon thaccompte of the seid Cawode, vi^s viij^d.

"Rec. of the same Wardens for the same teit for A^o xxxii paid by M^r Turnor to M^r Justice then byng warden as apperithe uppon his accompte x^s.

Sm^a lvj^s viij^d."

"*Ordinaunce* 1547.—M^d the xvijth day of Apr^l the first yere of the regne of our Soulaigne lord Kyng Edward the vjth before Willelm Bureton then Mayo^r of the Borough of Redyng, Richard Justice & Willelm Edmund late Mayo^rs ther, John Maynforth, Clerk, vicar of the pisshe of Saynt laurence in Redyng aforseid John Sawnders & Edward

Butler Wardens of the seid pisshe churche, Nicholas Niclas, John Bell, Rob^t Blake, John Bukland, Thom^as Sayntmore, Raphe Gladwyn, Gilbt. Johnson & dyuce others inhitants of the seid pisshe assembled together for maynten^aunce of the charge of the Clerks & Mynesters of the quyer ther, And other good orders ther to be had & contynowed, it is ordered & enacted by the pties above named in man^r & fo^rme followyng :—

Jhc Masse—That is to witt, the masse of Jhu in the seid churche to be charged & to pay the sexten his wagis yerely iij^{li}, to the same Sexten for tollyng to Jhc Masse, to our lady Masse ijs viij^d. For kepyng of the Clock & scowryng the Cansticks & Desks iij^s ij^d—ij prests Chambres & the Clarks ch^ambre.

“ Or lady Masse—It. that our lady masse to be charged & to pay John Barkers wage a syngyngman xl^s.

“ The Churche.—It. the Churche wardens to be charged w^t the Clarke wage xx^s : w^t Dixson’s wage a syngyngman liijs iiij^d : Darlyngtons wage xx^s in money, & hous x^s : and the vndersexton xiijs iiij^d.

“ Ordinaunce.—And ouⁿ that, it is ordered & enacted that all women of the seid pisshe whos husbonds nowe be, or heretofore have bene bretherne of the Masse of the Jhc shall from hensforth sitt & have the highest seats or pewes next unto the Mayo^rs wifs seate towarde the pulpitt.”

In the accounts for 2 & 3 Phil. & Mary, A.D. 1555, is a record of the loss of 80*l.* sustained by the Jesus Chantry.

“ One Richard Turn^o late of Redyng, Mercer, disceased solde unto the bretherne of the Masse of Jhc founded in the seid pisshe certayn lande lying in the pisshe of Kyngsclere in the countie of South, to the yeerley value of iiij^{li} : ffor the whiche he received & had of the seid bretherne the s^m of lxxx^{li} in full^l and entier payment for the same, And desyred that the possession therof myght be stayed for a tyme for c^ontayne considera^ons Albeit immediately aft^r the money by hym so received he became ten^ant vnto the seid bretherne, And paid to them to the vse of the seid Masse, the seid rent of iiij^{li} yerely duryng his lyfe (And dyed) so that the seid bretherne then had none other possession, whervpon one John Turn^o son & heire vnto the seid Richard, into the seid londe entred And the same doth w^holde & kepe, so that as yet the seid bretherne ar w^out ther money & also ther londe.” (*Ch. Wards. Accts.*)

“ By the return of the Commissioners appointed to

survey colleges and chantries, anno 1 Ed. VI., it appeared that this chantry was worth by the yere in lands and tenements 14*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* : reparations communibus annis 5*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* and so remaineth to Richard Adeane, incumbent of 39 yeres, and mete to serve cure and having besides a share of a free chapel in Wallingford 8*l.* 10*s.* Goods remaining there 70*s.* over and besides one chalice weighing 20 ounces."

"Belonging to this chantry was a stipendiary priest founded by Thomas Justice, clerk, and John Clampard, who for the sum of 400 marks, paid to the master and wardens of the guylde of St. Catharine's appertaining to Haberdashers' Hall in London, have bounden the same to pay yerely at iiij termes out of their said hall, to maintain a priest perpetually to sing in the said church 7*l.* ; whereof to the mayor for his cost in riding to London for the same, 6*s.* 8*d.*, and so remaineth to William Webbe, clerk, of the age of 52 yeres, decrepit, and not able to serve any cure, nor having beside this any living, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Goods remaining there 112*s.* 4*d.*, chalice, none.

"Rents given to the use of the poore, and to maintain one yerely obit in the pish church there by one Henry Kelsall, by his last will, anno 1493 per annum 20 shill. ; whereof in relief of the poor 10*s.* and so for the obit 10*s.* The number of houseling people in the said parish be a thousand." (Coates' "Reading.")

From the original Pension Roll of Philip & Mary (Addit. MSS. 8102, Brit. Mus.) we have the following :—

Penc'	{	<p>"Wittmi Webbe nup celebrañ in poch Sñi Laurens in Reading p. ã. C^s.</p> <p>Riçi, A Deane incumbeñ nup cant' voc "Ihs Chañty" in poch Sci Laurenc iñm—vi^{li}."</p>
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The tenements belonging to this chantry, with those belonging to Jesus chantry in St. Giles's Church, and to Colney's chantry in St. Mary's, were all granted to the mayor and corporation by Queen Elizabeth in her charter.

The altar of this chantry was situated in the nave against the north pier of the chancel arch.

Anno 1502. "It. payed for byndyng & new coulyng of the grete antyphoner, & for makyng of &

puttyng in of the ffeſte of the viſytaçō tⁿſfy-
guraçōn of Jhu.”

Anno 1508. “It. payed to John Cokks for mending of
the gret pⁿksong boke of Jhu Maſſe, xx^d.”

“It. for mending of Jhc cope and for ſowyng on
of the aul^t cloth þ^e neþⁿ frontell of Jhū aul^t x^d.

1512-3. John Pownſer, warden.

1513-18. Nicholas Hyde, warden.

1517. “It. a cope paned w^t blew velwett & black, &
orfrey of grene ſaten-a-brydgis of the giſte of
the x brethern, enbrodⁿyd w^t the name of Ihc.”
(Invent.)

1527. “It. for a lok to the long cofer in *Ihc p^{ce}*, vij^d.”

1534. “Payd for ij clamps of Iren for the ſtepp afore
Ihs aw^t iiij^d.”

1537. “Rec. for tollyng at the v^ment for the Brethren
of Ihs maſſe iiij^d.” (a common entry).

1541. “It. payd for glewyng an Image upon the long deſk
befor Ihs aw^t i^d.

“It. payd for paveyng afore Ihs aw^t x^d.

1542. “Rec. of the wardens of Ihs maſſe toward the
repaçōs of the churche bokes xv^s.”

1549. “Rec^d of M^r. Bukland for Ihc al^t & Saynt
Thomas’ al^t iiij^s.”

1572. “Itm. paied for workmanſhypp and ſtuſe to the
ſeats where the chyldren doo ſytt where Iheſus
Altar was, iiij^s.”

See alſo Wills of Henry Kelsall, John Pownſar, and Walter
Barton.

The braſs of Walter Barton has been recently placed on
the ſpot formerly occupied by the “table” or reredos of
this altar for its better preſervation.

Incumbents of Jeſus Chantrey.

1509. July 9. Edward Colyer, M.A., was inſtituted, being
preſented by Thomas Carpenter, mayor, and
Walter Barton, and Robert Benet, the real
patrons. He died the ſame year.

1510. April 20. John Richmond, inſtituted by the ſame
perſons.

1517, Jan. 26. John Richmond, inſtituted on the reſig-
nation of John Richmond, his predecessor, to

which he was presented by William Watts, mayor, and Thomas Everard, and John Vansby, wardens of the church of St. Lawrence, the patrons. He died in 1519, and was buried in St. John's chancel, as appears from the church accounts. (See "Inventory," 1517.)

1521. April 17. William Wright, instituted on the death of John Richmond, being presented by William Gyfford, mayor of the borough; William Knyght and Richard Turner being churchwardens. He died in 1527.

Richard a Deane was the last incumbent of the Jesus Chantry. Queen Mary assigned him a yearly pension of 6*l*.

1537. "Payd for horse hire for S^r Ric. Dean, iiij^d."

1547. "Paid to S^r Richard Deane for wag^s allowed hym by the pisshe, x^s."

1549. "Paid and lent to Richard a Deane by th'assent of the pisshe iiij^l."

„ "Paid to Sir Ric. a Deane for his yer^s wag^s, xx^s."

Note.—The great bell given by Henry Kelsall was termed "The bell of Ihu," in honour of this chauntry, which he first founded.

In the same way the fourth was called "Our Lady Bell," and was probably used for the "Angelus" as well as for the offices performed at the Lady Altar. The Lady Bell was usually rung at the death of children, as though the Virgin mother had sympathy with parents in their bereavement. The men sat facing the Jesus Altar on the north side of the nave, and the women sat opposite the altar of the Blessed Virgin on the south side; a coincidence probably intentional.

Our Lady Altar of the Nativity, and the Lady Mass.

This altar was at the east end of the nave on the south side of the chancel arch.

It was probably one of the earliest of the chauntry altars. The writer has not hitherto been able to find any trace of lands or tenements belonging to this chauntry, so that its revenues must have been derived from bequests and voluntary offerings. It is first mentioned in the roll of 1436:

"Et de dono Juliane Roche j linth' & j Keuſcheff p altare Bte Marie."

There was also an image of the Virgin probably standing near this altar.

1441-2. "A new bench or settle was placed before the Image of the B. Mary at a cost of 8^d."

1506. "It. payd for mending of one of the grete candlestikks before o^r Lady vj^d."

Her figure was probably supported by a bracket in the wall above or near the Lady Altar, so that the two large candlesticks which stood near the altar might be said to stand "before our Lady."

Anno 1512-13. The wardens of the two masses were first charged with an annual payment of 33^s. 4^d. each towards the sexton's wages. It was paid from this time until the Reformation.

"It. rec. of William Edmonds warden of o^r lady masse towards the wag^s of the seid sexten for a yere endid at the seid ffeſt, xxxij^s. iiij^d."

This is the first time the "Lady *Mass*" is mentioned in the accounts.

1513-4. "John Barfote, warden.

1533. "Rec. of the wardens of o^r lady masse towards the repacoñs of the churche bokes, xv^s."

"Rec. & borrowed of o^r ladyes box towards the repacoñs of the ij ch^auncells vj^{li} ij^s iiij^d."

"Whereof is payd to the hands of *Richard Turner* in parte of payment of vj^{li} ij^s. iiij^d. boroed of o^r ladyes box this yere, xxij^s. iiij^d."

1543. "Rec. & borrowed of the wardens of o^r lady towards the makyng of the newe Canstiks for rode light & for makyng of Clock x m^arcs."

1545-6. "M^d that Robt Blake owithe for the hire of Sercretts in full payment of xxiiij^s. dewe to our lady Masse & Assigned to be paid to the Church wardens, iiij^s."

„ "Paid Nicholas (Niclas) the warden of o^r lady Masse owing to the seid Masse, x m^arcs."

There is a most interesting relic of this altar inserted in the north wall of the church, consisting of a panel of white marble, formerly a part of the reredos, and bearing a repre-



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VISIT OF THE MAGI.

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sensation in high relief of the visit of the Magi to the infant Saviour. The Virgin mother is sitting up in her bed bearing the Holy Child in her arms, her head reclining on a pillow placed lozenge-wise against the tester. Her open mantle is secured by a cord passing across the breast and forming a triangle, the lower point ending in a tassel a little above the waist. The aged Joseph with his staff is seated in a chair at the foot of the couch. One of the royal visitors (all three are crowned), in a stooping attitude is presenting his offering to Christ; his two companions stand in the background, habited in the cassock of the artist's own time—a smaller female figure stands near the head of the Virgin. Faint traces of gold and rich colouring are still visible. Every artistic feature points to the end of Richard the Second's reign, c. 1400, as the period of its execution. The iconoclasts of the Reformation have destroyed all the heads with most of the canopy work above. This very interesting fragment was discovered in the vicinity of the pulpit, and judiciously inserted in the wall at the last restoration.

(See end of chapter on the Jesus Altar for "Lady Bell.")

**"The Ornaments belonging to Our ladyes Altar withyn
the church of Sainte Lawrence." (A.D. 1524-5.)**

"ffyrste a vestemente of Russet veluet & whytt damask
payned & enbroderyd.

It. a vestement of grene damask enbrod^yyd w^t katyn
whells. (See under St. John's Chapel, anno 1436.)

It. a vestement of whytt Brydge satten w^t a crosse of
grene.

It. a vestmēte of grene bawdkyn w^t a crosse of Blew
enbrod^yyd.

It. an awl^y cloth of blew brydge^s satten enbrod^yyd w^t the
ymage of the trynyte and ffloweres w^t ij c^rteyns of
blew serssenet belongyng to the same.

It. an awl^y cloth of Russett veluet enbrod^yyd w^t fflor^s
w^t ij c^rteyns of Russet & whyt serssenet to the same.

It. an awl^y cloth of bawdkyn & blake veluet enbrod^yyd
w^t garters and a nother cloth to the same payned of
blew & oreng sarssnet w^towt C^rteyns.

It. ij rede awl^y clothes paynted w^t ij c^rteyns to the
same.

It. an awl^y cloth of lynnyn w^t ij c^rteyns to the same,
w^t rede crosse for lente.

- It. ij al^l clothes on diap & a nother playn & ij other al^l clothes wth a canvas couyng.
- It. ij towels of playn clothe one of them diap.
- It. a prynteyd masboke, in the second leffe 'Dñica p^lma Aduēt.'
- It. a peyre of cruett^s of powder.
- It. iij paxes.
- It. a Corpas m^lked w^t saynt Anteny Crosse cōteynyng a yerde w^t a casse of cloth of gold & tawnye veluet enbrod^lyd w^t thes lrēs **R** & **S**. (*Probably the gift of Richard Smith.*)
- It. a Corpas m^lked w^t an **I** in whyte sylke cōteynyng a yerde w^t a casse of dornex to the same.
- It. a nother Corpas m^lked w^t this tre **M** in blake sylke & a casse of dornex (very ffebyll).
- It. a candlestik with ij roses.
- It. ij greatt standard^s & ij small kanstyks of laten.
- It. vij seyrclett^s yn iij basketts, in the wardens kepeyng.
- It. a vestment of purple velvet.
- It. a vestiment of Rede velvet and a white . . .
- It. a vestiment of white Damask w^t a velvet crosse w^t flowres, rede flo^rs.
- It. a white wth a grene crosse.
- It. a vestment of crimesyn velvet.
- It. a white vestiment of fustien for lent.
- It. a rownd box gilt abowt.
- Itm. a p^lcessionall p^lchement, & j ym^ln^l p^lnted. (*hymner printed*).
(See Will of Thomas Platts.)

The Altar of St. John the Baptist.

This was situated at the east end of the north chancel aisle, still called St. John's Chapel. This part of the church was separated from the chancel proper by a screen or parclose. It was sometimes called the "Vicar's Chancel," to distinguish it from the other then termed "The Church Chancel."

The references to this chapel in the old accounts are frequent and interesting, and from them we may form an accurate estimate of its former condition.

Anno 1436. "Paid to Thomas Hawe for 2 lbs. of wax, purchased for the *lights of St. Catharine* in the chapel of St. John."

There may have been an altar dedicated to St. Catherine at this time. If so, it must have been removed soon afterwards, because there is no later reference to it in the accounts. This idea is strengthened by the fact that there was a vestment—*i.e.* a chasuble, *embroidered with Catherine wheels*, which in 1524 belonged to the Lady Altar.* The Lights of St. Catherine are first mentioned in the roll of 1433.

"About the fifteenth century, some reasonable doubts having been cast not only on the authenticity of her legend, but on her very existence, vain attempts were made to banish her from the calendar: her festival, after being one of the most solemn in the Church, was by several prelates of France and Germany suppressed altogether, and by others left free from all religious obligations. In England, St. Catharine was especially popular. About the year 1119, Geoffry, a learned Norman, was invited from the University of Paris to superintend the direction of the schools of the Abbey of Dunstable, where he composed a play, entitled 'St. Catherine,' and caused it to be acted by his scholars. This was, perhaps, the first spectacle of the kind ever attempted, and the first trace of theatrical representation that ever appeared in England." (Mrs Jameson.)

Opposite the south-west angle of the tower of St. Lawrence's stood an old hostelry under the invocation of this saint, known as the "Catherine Wheel." It was taken down in 1882, and its site is now occupied by the newly erected premises of the Messrs. Gregory, Love, and Clarke. This inn was probably of mediæval origin.

1505. "It. rec. of the gyft of John Greke toward a payre of grete candylstykkes in Seynt Johns chauncell, iij^s iiij^d."

"John Pownser to the same candylstikks, iij^s iiij^d.
Richard Eve to the same, viij^d."

"John Cokks to the same, iij^s. Ric. Ffrankleyn to the same, viij^d."

"It. payed for a payre of gret candylstykkes in Seynt Johns chauⁿcell weying $\frac{xx}{v}$ & iij^l (103 lbs.) p^c le li, vi^l. s^m lj^s vi^d."

In 1513 the front of the High Altar was transferred to the altar in this chapel.

* See "Altar of St. Blaise." See also "Monuments."

"It. payd to a laborer for iiij dayes at Removyng of the hygh awter & Seynt Johns awl^e xvj^d.

1514. "It. payed to a laborer for iij dayes & di. at the besynes in brekyng of the awter in Seynt Johns chauncell, xiiij^d.

"It. payed to Croll & hys sⁱu^ants for iij dayes work in makyng of the awter in Seynt Johns chauncell & op^e werks þer iii^s iiiij^d."

It was consecrated the same year (*vide* High Altar).

1515. "It. payd for makyng of the dore in to the quere out of Saynt Johns chauncell, xiiij^d."

In 1519, S^r John Richmond was buried here. He was one of the Incumbents of the Jesus chauntry.

1523. "It. to an Alabast^r man for makeyng clene the table at Saynt John's Awl^e, & *other* ymages, xvj^d."

In the Inventory of the Altars of 1524-5, we have :—

"The Ornaments belonging to Saynte John's Awlter within the same Church.

"In p^rmis an awl^e cloth payned, of red and blew brydge satten.

"It. an awl^e cloth of Blak veluet & bawdkyn enbrodⁱyd w^t gartes & c'teyns to the same.

"It. a nother cloth payned of blew & oreng collo^r sⁱssenet.

"It. an awl^e cloth of Russet veluet & whyte satten.

"It. a stayned cloth w^t the ymage of o^r ladye thervppon.

"It. ij grete standards of latten w^t ij small kansty^ks of latten."

1537-8. "Payd for makeyng a hangyng of rede bawdkyn at Seynt Johns Awl^e & the curtens before th'appostles at the high Awl^e, vj^d."

At the sale of church goods, in 1549, this altar, with a cope chest, was purchased by Mr. Grey for 6s. 8d.

1562. "*Sale of olde Tymber.*"

"Item of Wittm Dudlesoll (C. W.) for the borders of the roode lofte and a trymmar that stoode uppon S. Johns Awlter, x^s."

1568. "Itm. for makinge the partycion betwene the chauncells & mendinge y^e seats in S^t Johns chauncell, iiij^s."

"Itm. for mendinge of the east wyndowe in S. Johns Chauncell & the wyndowe by the organs in y^e same chauncell, xvjd." (See "Organ.")

The old stalls or desks, undoubtedly the very same provided by Henry Kelsall in 1493, were removed out of this chapel into the choir at the restoration, under Mr. Ferrey, in 1848. (The east ends of three of these stalls only are of fifteenth century work.)

This chapel was probably constructed for the Brethren and Sisters of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, founded by Abbot Hugh, in 1196.

A good piscina, but with a broken bowl, was discovered in the respond of the arches in the south-east corner of this chapel, in 1848.

(See Will of Thomas Platts, 1522. Also under article "Seats.")

The Altar of St. Blaise.

There is only one reference to this altar in the church records:—

Anno 1433. "Et in panno cepit emp' ad summū altare & altare Sancti Blasii, ij^s."

This saint keeps his place in the English reformed calendar. He was considered the special patron and protector of woolcombers and woolstaplers. The dedication of an altar to him in the municipal church indicates the existence of the woollen manufacture in the town at this early period.

"In simple figures and devotional pictures he is represented as an old man with a white beard, attired as a bishop with the planeta and mitre, holding in one hand a crosier, and in the other an iron comb such as is used by woolcombers, the instrument of his torture: this is his peculiar attribute." (Mrs. Jamieson.)

If the altar of St. Thomas was not substituted for the altar of St. Blaise in 1502, then the latter was probably removed about 1520, when so much was done to the interior of the church. Its old altar cloth with the embroidered figure of St. Blaise was assigned to the altar of St. Thomas.

St. Thomas' Altar.

This stood on the north side of the entrance to St. John's Chancel, and in a line with the Altars of Jesus and the B. Virgin. It is not mentioned in the church records before 1502.

"It. payed for *makynge of Seynte Thome's Awter*, Seynt Georg^s Awter for setting of Seynt George in to the loft, viij^s viij."

It seems probable that the loft here mentioned was an extension of the rood loft over the north aisle; the altar and image of St. George being *on* the gallery, and the altar of St. Thomas, and perhaps two others, *beneath* it. This apostle was considered the patron saint of "*carpenters*," builders, and architects.

("Thomas" "*Carpenter*," a parishioner, was Mayor of Reading in 1504-6-8-9. His wife's mother was interred in the church in 1498-9, and he in 1519-20. *He may have been the founder*. His widow "*Mrs*" Carpenter was buried in the church in 1534.)

Anno 1508. "It. payed to Willelm Stamford for mending & setting on of a lyon upon a grete candylstyke before Seynt Thomas Aul^d iij^d."

(The lion was probably one of three—couchant, on which the base of the standard rested.)

1541. "Payd for the desk before Saynt Thomas Aw^t viij^s xi.

In 1549 this altar was purchased by Mr. John Buckland (mayor) with the Jesus Altar for 4s. It was replaced in the reign of Queen Mary:—

1558 "Itm. for paynting the table ouⁿ S. Thom^s's awlter v^s."

"The Ornaments belonging to Saynte Thomas Awlter within the same Church. (1524.)

In p^lmis a vestemēte of grene damask w^t a Crose of blew veluete.

It. a vestmēte of whyte brydg^s satten w^t a crose of grene brydg^s satten.

It. a vestmēte of crymson sylk w^t grypp^s & a small crose of whyte.

- It. a vestmēte of rede silk with a small crosse.
 It. a white fustian for lent.
 It. a blew awl^l cloth enbrod^y w^t the ymag of sent Clemēte & awngell^s in the ffronte.
 It. an awl^l cloth of craync collo^r veluete & whyte satten & ij c^rteyns of s^yssenete of the same collo^s.
 It. an awl^l cloth of blak veluete & bawdkyn payned enbrod^y w^t garters & ij c^rteyns of blew and orange collo^r s^yssenete.
 It. an awl^l cloth of blak veluete & blew satten w^towt c^rteyns w^t a crucifix.
 It. an awl^l cloth w^t the ymage of Saynte blasse.
 It. an awl^l cloth of lynnyn w^t Rede Crosses for lente w^t c^rteyns.
 It. an aul^l cloth of c^ysenet playn blak & oreng.
 It. a corporas m^yked w^t a fflo^r of blak sylke & a case of Rede tyssew.
 It. a corporas of blak velvet w^t a kercher.
 It. a nother of blew bawdkyn w^t a kercher.
 It. a pax of copp enamelled w^t a crucifix.
 It. ij grete standards of latten w^t ij small kanstyks of latten.
 It. a masboke prynted begynyng in the second leff 'stat memoria.'
 It. ij al^l cloths of diap old & a"

The Sepulchre Altar.

This appears to have been situated on the north side of the choir beneath the middle arch of the arcade (see below, "1513"). It was appointed for the deposition of the consecrated elements of the Eucharist from the evening of Good Friday until the morning of Easter Day; during which time it was watched by a quasi-guard, after the manner of our Lord's sepulchre. The sacrament was then removed with loud Alleluias and much rejoicing to its accustomed place on the High Altar.

The church books contain many references to this mediæval ceremony.

Anno 1498. "In p^omis payed for wakyng of the sepulcr viij^d."—Similar entries occur yearly until the Reformation.

- 1507.* "It. paid to Sybel Derling for nayles for the sepulcre & for rosyn to the *resurreccyon pley* ij^d. ob."
1512. "It. payed to Water Barton to the new Sepulcur iiij^h. xiiij^s. x^d."—This was a very considerable sum at that period, and it must have been an object of unusual magnificence.
- Anno 1513. "It. payd to Harry Horthorne for settingg upp of the frame aboute the sepulcre & for closyng of the dore in Seynt Johns chauncell to the quyre, vj^d." (See end of this article "*Henry Hawthorne*.")
(A new door was opened in 1515.)
- 1513-4. "It. payd to Harry Horthorne for ij pecis to hang the sepulcre cloth on, ij^d."
- 1513-4. "It. payd for ale at Removyng of the sepulcre to the carpenters iiij^d. ob."
1516. "It. paid for makyng of the lofte for the sepulcre light li^s. ij^d."

**"The Ornaments belongyng to the sepulcre Awlter in
the same Church. (1524)**

- In p^lmis a vestemēte of Crymson veluet w^t a crose of rych tyssew.
- It. a vestemēte of Russet satten w^t a crose of cloth of gold.
- It. a vestemēte of whyt brydg^s satten w^t a Crose of grene brydg^s satten.
- It. an awl^l cloth of Crymson & tawny veluet enbrod^d yd w^t fflor^s of gold: & for the *nether* pte of the same, Crymson saten & cloth of bawdekyn—for the sepulcr awter. (*Inv.* 1517.)
- It. an awl^l cloth of crymson satten & blew bawdkyn w^t ij C^rteyns to the same of grene.
- It. iiij^o C^rteyns of Russete & blew s^ssenete w^t an awl^l cloth of whytte & grene.
- It. ij small Kanstykkys of latten."
- 1538-9. "Paid for makeyng the beam lights ou the sepulcre ayenst east^y xxj^d."
- 1544-5 "Paid for sylk poynts for the Sepulcre ij^d."

* This entry may relate to the performance of a Mystery on "Corpus Christi" day.

In 1549 the whole seems to have been swept away.
 "Rec^a of Mr. Bell for the sepulcre & the
 frame for taps thereto annexid xx^s."

Among the inquiries in 1554 after the goods alienated
 sold and stolen in the time of Edward VI. we have—

"Item for the valence about the sepulcre to know who
 hath it in kepyng."

This is repeated. "It. to enquire for the valence &
 ffrenge about the sepulcre."

1561. "Item receyved of Mathew Reynoldes and Water
 Sawyer for the sepulcre they bought, xx^s viij^d."

In 1562, "The fframe where the sepulcher Lighte dyd
 stand" was taken down by Willyam Marten and his man
 together with the rood loft and the way to the same.

"Sayle of olde Tymber."

"In p^omis of Master Butler for y^e loft *over* the chancell
 x^s"—evidently the loft "where the sepulcher Lighte dyd
 stand." (Edward Butler's brass is now on the south wall of
 the sacrarium.)

Note.—"Henry Hawthorn" was a Reading carpenter, and
 obviously a man of some note in his time. He first occurs
 in 1501 as one of the churchwardens of St. Lawrence's. In
 1508 he presented a ladder of "xx rongs" to the church.
 It once belonged to John Turner, a turner in the High
 Street. In 1510 he prepared the wainscot for the ceiling
 and the decorations of the altar by the Mayor's seat. In
 1513 a gallon of ale was given to him and his men for
 raising a "coffer" into the steeple. In 1516 he repaired the
 seats on the north side of the church.

Anno 1518. "It. payd to Harry Horthorne for tymbre
 werkmanshipp & for bowrdyng of men as
 apperith by his bills, vij^{li} iiij^d."

Very much must have been done to the roof or fittings
 of the church at this time.

In 1519 he relaid the gutter between the two chancels.

He died in 1522 and was buried in the church.

"Rec. for the grave of Henry Horthorn vi^s viij^d—couyng
 the same viij^d."

His widow died in 1527, and in the same year William
 Coon or Cone, Hawthorn's associate, who executed the
 carving in 1518, was laid to his rest.

This Henry left a son Henry, who followed his father's

occupation. He first occurs as the maker of a railing for the belfry in 1528, and in 1530 he was employed for ten days in mending the bells at 6*d.* "by the day."

He is mentioned no more in the records of St. Lawrence. In the fine collection of MSS. at Loseley House near Guildford, belonging to Wm. More Molyneux, Esq., there is an account of the removal of certain tents or wooden lodgings from Oatlands to be re-erected at Chobham, anno 38 Hen. VIII. by *Henri Harthorn*. Under the heading of "*Carpenters*" the time of his service is reckoned to be 28 days 40 hours; and again under the heading of "*Sawyers*," we have

"D. to Henry Hothorne in prest on a Reconyng for his owne wadges and other carpenters nott yett payd for Chobbā. Reconyng vj^{li}."

This document formerly belonged to Sir Thomas Cawarden, Master of the Revels at that time.

Curiously enough, either himself or another of his *name* and *calling* crops up at Seale near Farnham, where in the C.W. accounts for 1598—"For a boorde and mending the pulpett one daies worke." The name does not occur in Seale Registers before the 27th of Jan. 1593, when he married "Joan Brombye" of that place. He settled there and had issue, William, bap. 1594, Eliz., bap. 1596, Mary, bap. 1599, Thomas, 1603, John, bap. 1606, Robert, bap. 1613. The children of William, John and Robert appear in these Registers.)

St. George's Altar

was constructed at the same time as the altar of St. Thomas (q.v.) anno 1501-2, and apparently on the loft above it.

(There is a remarkably early instance of this arrangement at Compton Church, Surrey, where the eastern half of the chancel is divided into two stories by an original Norman gallery of stone with cross groinings beneath. The vault is of one span, and its western arch or face is richly decorated. The old Norman rail of *oak* traversing the front of this gallery is in wonderful preservation. The altar was visible from the nave.)

Anno 1503-4. "It. payed for ij yerds & an di of wyer to þ^e auter in Seynt Georg^s loft, & for dressyng of the same aut iij^d. ob."

As the loft was repaired at the same time as the altar of St. Thomas was constructed, it may be concluded that the gallery *above* St. Thomas' altar was that which is here called St. George's loft; indeed, there was no other to which such a term could be applied, for besides the rood loft and this, there were only the ringing floor in the tower, and a loft for the sepulchre light. It was approached by a staircase in the north wall, the upper doorway of which is still visible near the entrance to St. John's Chancel.

Besides the altar, this loft contained a famous image of St. George on horseback, probably triumphing over the terrible dragon. This was coeval with the gallery and the altar.

The church records for 1534 present some interesting details relating to this image.

“Charge of
Saynt George. { Ffirst, payd for iiij^{or} Caffes (calves)
 skynes & ij^o horsse skynes iiij^s vj^d.”
 (*Evidently for the horse's coat.*)

“Payd for makeyng the loft that Saynt George standeth
apon vi^d” (*a small dais*).

“Payd for ij^o plonks for the same loft viij^d.”

“Payd for iiij^{or} pesses of clowt-lether ij^s ij^d.”

“Payd for makeyng the yron that the hors resteth
apon vj^d.”

“Payd to John Paynter for his labo^r xlv^s.”

“Payd for roses, bells gyrdle, swerd, & dager iiij^s iiij^d.”

“Payd for setting on the bells & roses iiij^d.”

“Payd for naylls necessarie therto x^d ob.”

Note.—The George and Dragon Hotel in this parish, commonly called “The George,” is mentioned in the church accounts for 1523-4:—

“Rec. for the knyll of a straung^r } that dyed at the
George xij^d.”

“Rec. for the manes grave that dyed at the George
& for couyng of the same vij^s. iiij^d.”

Mr. Justice's Altar.

Thomas Justice was appointed vicar of St. Lawrence's, Sept. 18, 1502. He resigned Dec. 20, 1518. Mr. Coates states that he and John Clampard gave 400 marks to the wardens of the guild of St. Catharine, Haberdashers' Hall, London, in order that they should pay the yearly sum of 7*l.* to provide a priest to sing perpetually in the said church

of St. Lawrence. Mr. Coates assigns this endowment to the *Jesus Chauntry*. But as there were only two chauntry priests surviving in Q. Mary's days, one of whom, *Richard a Deane* is expressly named as the incumbent of the Jesus Chauntry, and as Mr. Coates associates William Webb with *Mr. Justice's* foundation at the same time, the two chantries were evidently distinct.

He was probably the son of William Justice, the elder, of Reading, who represented the town in Parliament in 1509-10, and served the office of Mayor in 1513. In his will, dated 18 Feb. 1520, at Somerset House (Reg. Mainwaring, fo. 6), is the following:—"I bequeath to *Thomas Justice* my son *preest* C ounces of plate most necessary to him w^t a blake gowne," &c. He bequeathed to the church of Myre, where he was born, 10*l.*, that the priest there might pray for his soul and the souls of his parents. He desired that his body might be buried in St. Mary's, Reading, before the Altar of Jesus.

Anno 1520-1. "It. vppon ñ. Thom^as Justice for the grave of M^{res} Smyth his moder vj^s viij^d—covering vj^d." The sum was paid the year following.
1531. "Payd for makyng the foldyng hatche by *Mr. Justice Awter* viij^d."

Anno 1552-3. "In the custodie of Thom^as Byggs a fair Table for an aw^d of the gift of M^r Thom^as Justice late vicar ther."

(See Index.)

The Vestry Altar.

There is no clue in the church accounts to the position of the ancient vestry. It seems to have been a wooden chamber constructed within the church; its flat covering forming a sort of small gallery.

1518. "It. for making of an auter in the vestrie, vj^d."

1525. "It. to the glasyer for mendyng the wyndow in the 'halpac' ou^r the vestre, xvj^d."

1562. "Itm. payd to Willyam Marten and his man for settinge up of the borders of the lofte ouer the vestry, xvj^d." (These were the carved borders of the old rood loft purchased by W. Duddelsoll, the C.W., and presented by him for this purpose.)

St. Nicholas Altar.

1538-9. "Payd for ij tap^ls made for Saynt Nichūs Awl, vjd."

The chamber of a priest or chaplain called "Sir Nicholas" was repaired by the churchwardens in 1534.

1537-8. "Rec. for a surples of S^r Nicholas sold, iij^s."

Whether this was a temporary altar, erected on the occasion of some boys' festival, or whether it was an old one with a new name, under the auspices of "Sir Nicholas," it is impossible to say, for this is the only reference to it in the church accounts.

The Trinity Altar.

"The Ornaments belonging to the trynyte awlter within the same Church." (Anno 1524.)


In p^lmis a vestemente of cloth of sylu, w^t a Crosse of cloth of gold.

It. a vestemēte of Blak veluet w^t a Crosse of grene cloth of gold.

It. a vestemēte of grene brydge^s satten w^t a Crosse of cloth of gold.

It. a vestemēte of grene bordalexaunder^y w^t a crosse of yellow dornex.

It. a Corpras mayd of a Crysom w^t a case of cloth of golde & grene veluete.

It. a corpras cōteynnyng a yerd m^ykyd w^t this lre  in golde w^t a case of Rych Bawdkyn.

It. a pax of Copp & enamylled w^t the pytye of o^r ladye.*

It. a payr of Cruetts of pewd^y.

Itm. ij small Kanstyks of latten.

Itm. ij Awl^l Clothes of lynnē playn.

Itm. A wrytten maseboke couyd w^t crymson veluete in the second leff begynnyng '*inimici rugiet*', w^t a pyn of sylu for the Regesters."

Anno 1549. "Rec. of M^r Grey for the Trinitie Al^l of m^yble w^t the Trynyte, x^s viij^d."

There is no reference to this altar in the church accounts

* A representation of the B. Virgin mourning over the dead body of Jesus reclining on her knees.

under this name. As the altar was of marble, it must have stood on the ground floor.

The Side Altar,

mentioned in 1510, is probably the same as the "The altar by the Mayors Seat," referred to in the same year.

It seems to have been situated immediately under the rood screen, on the south side of the church, in a chapel to west of the Lady Altar. The piscina, visible in the bottom of one of the nave windows, probably marks its approximate position.

1510. "Itm. payed for hewyng & pgettyng off the syde awter, xiiij^d."

1510-11. "It. payd to Cone for selyng & dressyng of the awt^e be Mr Mayo^rs set, ij^s iij^d." (See p. 43.)

1541. "Payd for setting the seats agaynst the syde awts, ij^s viij^d."

St. Clement's Altar.

St. Clement was acknowledged as the patron of smiths. On the easternmost pillar, between the nave and aisle, are the remains of a painted shield, charged with the smith's arms:—

Ermines, two horseshoes in bend arg^t on a bordure of the last, a pair of pincers, hatchet, and sword, sable. It is very probable that his altar was in the vicinity of this pillar, and in the north aisle. The shield is on the *north-east* side of the pillar.

1516. "It. paid for mendyng of the beame for Saynt Clements light, viij^d."

1520. "It. payd for mendyng of the cloth before Saynt Clement, iij^d."

1549. "Rec. of Thomas Turner for boks & for Saynt Clements Alt^r, xvij^s."

Holy Loaf.

Anno 5 Ed. vj. (1551.)

"At this day it was concludid & aggreid that from henceforth the euy inhitant of the pisse shall bere & pay euy Sondag in the yere v^d for euy tenement as of old tyme the Holy Lofe was used to be paid and be received by the

pisshē clark wekely, the seid clark to have euy Sonday for his paynes i^d. And iiij^d residewe to be paied & delyued euy Sonday to the churchwardens to be employed for bred & wyne for the comunyon. And if any ouplus therof shall be, of suche money so received to be to the use of the churche; and if any shall lacke, to be borne & paied by the seid churchwardens: pvided allwey, that all suche psons as ar poore & not hable to pay the whole, be to haue Ayde of such others as shall be thoughte good, by the discrecion of the Churchwardens."

1555. Rec. of money gathered for the holy lofe, ix^s iiij^d.

Bride=Pastes.

1557. Item for the hyer of the bryde pastes this yere, vi^s viij^d.

1561. Bryde-past. Item Receyved of John Radlye, vj^s viij^d. (last entry.)

Singing Bread.

A^o 37-8 H. viij. "Paid for Syngyng brede on Palme Sonday, ij^d."

Lights.

The churchwardens' accounts abound with references to lights. They seem to have been of four kinds:—1. *Symbolic*, such as accompanied the celebration of all sacramental rites and the obsequies of the dead; 2. *Festive*, such as were used for illuminations on the greater festivals, and especially at Christmas and Candlemas; 3. *Honorary*, or *Votive*; of such were the lights before the Sacrament, the Rood light, and the lights of St. Catharine;* and 4. *Ordinary*, or *Necessary*.

Symbolic.

Of this kind were the Font Taper, the Paschal Candle, and the Altar Lights. Each altar in the church was provided with two candlesticks for the re-table, and *not more*: it was the old English use. Two of these,

* See under "Altar of St. John the Baptist."

weighing 41 oz., were of silver, and belonged to the High Altar, having been presented by Mr. Richard Cleche. (Inventory.)

1508. "It. payd to Hew Goldsmyth for mending of the vices in the sylu candylstykkys xvj^d." They were parcel-gilt.

"It. payd to the same Hew for gyldyng and sowerderyng of þ^e fote of on sylu canstyck iiij^d."

At the Reformation sale in 1547, *six* great candlesticks or standards were purchased by John Saunders, bellfounder, of Reading. Two belonged to the Lady Altar, two to St. Thomas', and two to St. John's. Two more are mentioned in 1502 as standing in the chancel (see under *Paschal Bason*).

"It. payed for scowryng of the grete candylstikks in the quere vj^d." (see Altars).

Torches and wax lights were always used at funerals. The tapers were provided by the churchwardens, who charged the friends of the deceased for the amount consumed, and from the varying sums we may form some estimate of the quality of the deceased, and the nature of the obsequies—*e.g.*, 1498—"Itm. rec. for the sepulcr of Thomas Butler vj^s viij^d. It. rec. for wast of Torchys at the burying of the same Thom^as ij^s j^d"—whereas the next entry, at the burying of "Webb's wife" shows only 4*d*. for consumption of wax.

1501. "It. rec. for wast of torchis at the beryng of S^r John Hide vicar of Soñyng ij^s vj^d."

1502-3. "It. rec. ffor the graue of lawrence Morton gentyllman x^s."

"It. rec. for wast of torchis at the same byryng xx^d."

After 1510 this demand for waste of torches seems to be included in the charge for tolling the great bell. These funeral torches were of large size.

1498. "Itm. payed for ij torchys weying lxi^{li} p^oc le ti ij^d. ob. xij^s viij^d."

1502. "It. payed to M^r Smyth for ij torchis weying xlvij^{li} p^oc le ti iiij^d. sm^a xv^s iiij^d."

1505. "It. payed for vj torchis weying $\frac{xx}{iii}$ & xvj^{li} (96 lbs.) p^oc le ti iiij^d.—xxxii^s."

A lantern also was carried before the priest when bearing

the Eucharist to the sick in his visitations. It is frequently mentioned.

The *Paschal Taper* for Easter was usually large and costly.

The cost of the provision of this and the font taper occurs as a yearly item.

1498. "Itm. payed for the Pascalls and the ffonte taper to M^r Smith iiij^s."

1498. "Itm. payed for makyng long^d of M^r Smythis molde w^t a Judas to the Pascall vj^d."

1503. "It. rec. at Estur for the pascall xl^s."

1505. "It. paid to Maistres Smyth for wast of the pascall ij^s."

"It. payed for xxviiij li wex for a *stoke* to the pascall & to the font tapyr and for to renew the rode light p^dc le li v^d sm^a xj^s viij^d."

1508. "It. payed the same day to Watⁿ Barton for xx^{li} of wax for a pascall p^dc le li v^d sm^a—viijs iiij^d."

"It. payed to maistres Smyth for making of xiiij^{li} wax to the same pascall vj^d."

"It. payed to the same maistres for j^{li} of grene fflowris to the for seid pascall vj^d."

THE PASCHAL BASON.

1498. "Itm. payed for the Pascall bason and the hangyng of the same xviijs."

"Itm. payed for vij pendaunts for y^e same bason and j^e caryage fro London iijs."

1513. "It payd for makyng clene of the basyn *for the pascall* & the ij grete candstyks in the quere ayenst Estⁿ."

From the preceding entries it would appear that the Paschal candle was fixed in a bason weighted by pendants necessary to keep the candle upright, and suspended probably near the High Altar. With a Judas of wax attached, and a wreathing of green wax flowers, the laving of the candle would be considerable—hence the necessity for the bason beneath.

Festall Lights. (CHRISTMAS.)

1510. "Payed for iiij^{li} of talow candylls for to sett in j^e church on Crystmas Daye iiij^d ob."

1524. "It. for makeyng the fframe for the aungells vppon
Cristmas day iiij^d."

1525. "It. for i^b of Sysses (*small wax tapers*) for the
Aungells at Crystmas ix^d."

This would appear to indicate a constructional representation of the Nativity attended by angels, perhaps in ranks or gradations, bearing lighted tapers.

1506. "It. payed for sysis to the holy bush (*holly*) at
Christmas ix^d."

"Paid Macrell for an *holly bush before the Rode* ij^d."

(CANDLEMAS DAY.)

The commemoration of the Purification of the B. V. Mary was especially a feast of lights. Barnaby Googe in his "Popish Kingdom" thus describes the ceremonies of the day:—

Then comes the day wherein the Virgin
offered Christ unto
The Father chiefe, as Moyses law
commaunded hir to do.
Then numbers great of Tapers large
both men and women beare
To Church, being halowed there with pomp,
and dredeful wordes to heare.
This done, eche man his Candell lightes
where chiefest semeth he
Whose Taper greieste may be scene,
and fortunat to bee
Whose Candell burneth clere and bright.
A wondrous force and might
Doth in these candells lie, which if
at any time they light
They sure belebe that neyther storme
or tempest dare abide,
Nor thunder in the skies be heard
nor any devils spide,
Nor fearfull sprites, that walk by night,
nor hurts of frost or haile.

Alban Butler writes: "The candles are blessed previously to the use of them, because the church blesses and sanctifies by prayer whatever is employed in the Divine service. We are to hold the candles in our hands on this day while the 'Gospel' is read or sung; also, from the 'Elevation' to the 'Communion,'" &c. ("Lives of the Saints," Feb. 2.)

Special lights were employed in the church on this festival. A kind of chandelier, called a "trendell," was constructed for the occasion. It seems to have consisted of a wheel, or perhaps a series of wheels, of graduated size, attached horizontally to a central pole suspended from the roof, the lights being fixed on the outer margins.

A new one was made in 1502-3.

"It. payed to John Turner for makyng of the Trendyll ij^s.

It. payed for corde to the same Trendyll vj^d.

It. payed for tymber to make þ^e trendyll whele.

It. payed for colo's to þ^e same trendyll.

It. payed to Maistres Smyth for the trendyll xiiij^s iiij^d.

(*evidently for lights to furnish it*).

It. payed for payntyng of the same trendyll v^d.

It. payed for a bolte & a swevyll to the trendyll vj^d.

It. payed for polys to John Turn^r for þ^e trendyll ij^d."

1539-40. "Payed for the tymber trendle for *Candlemas Day* iiij^d."

The *sepulchre* was illuminated on Easter Day.

1538-9. "Payd for makeyng the beam lights ouⁿ the sepulchre ayenst eastⁿ xxi^d."

Honorary or Votive

lights were those burning before the Eucharist, the Rood and other images or pictures. (See under *High Altar*, 1537, *Rood Loft*. The light of St. Catharine is mentioned in 1433.

Ordinary Lights.

1534. "Payde to Pastler for settinge the braunche ap^on the Rode loft," &c., xvj^d."

1536-7. "Payd for takeyng down the braunche in the qwere iiij^d."

„ "Payd to Hugh Smyth for settinge upp the same braunche agayne & for mendyng a dore to an aumbrey viij^d."

1547. At the "Reformation Sale" John Saunders, the bellfounder, purchased the following articles of latten:—

"A Braunch w^t vij cansticks."

"iiij litel cansticks."

"vj greate cansticks."

"ij lampes."

"A beame w^t x cansticks and spyndells."

"vj lynks."

"xx laten bolls that were of the rode light."

1633 (Inventory). "Item, one swinginge brasse candlestick wth xij braunches or socketts" (given by Richard Johnson in 1631).

1772 (Inventory). "One Brass Hanging Candlestick with sixteen branches or socketts," the gift of Mr. Richard Underwood.

"One with eleven do. the gift of Mr. Richard Johnson."

The church is now lighted with gas.

The Pulpit.

1537-8. "Payd for makeyng the *walls* about the pulpett ij^s."

1592-3. "To John Braker for y^e work ouer y^e Pulpit xxij^d."

1639. "It. by a tax of the pishioners towards the new pulpett and church reparations, 13^{li} 19^s 3^d."

"Itm. p^d Goodman lime for mooving the pulpit and setting him lower 4^s 3^d."

1642. The pulpit was removed.

"It. for taking downe the old Pulpitt and making the reading place and setting upp the seats in the chancell and for new tymber & worke ij^{li} ij^s ij^d."

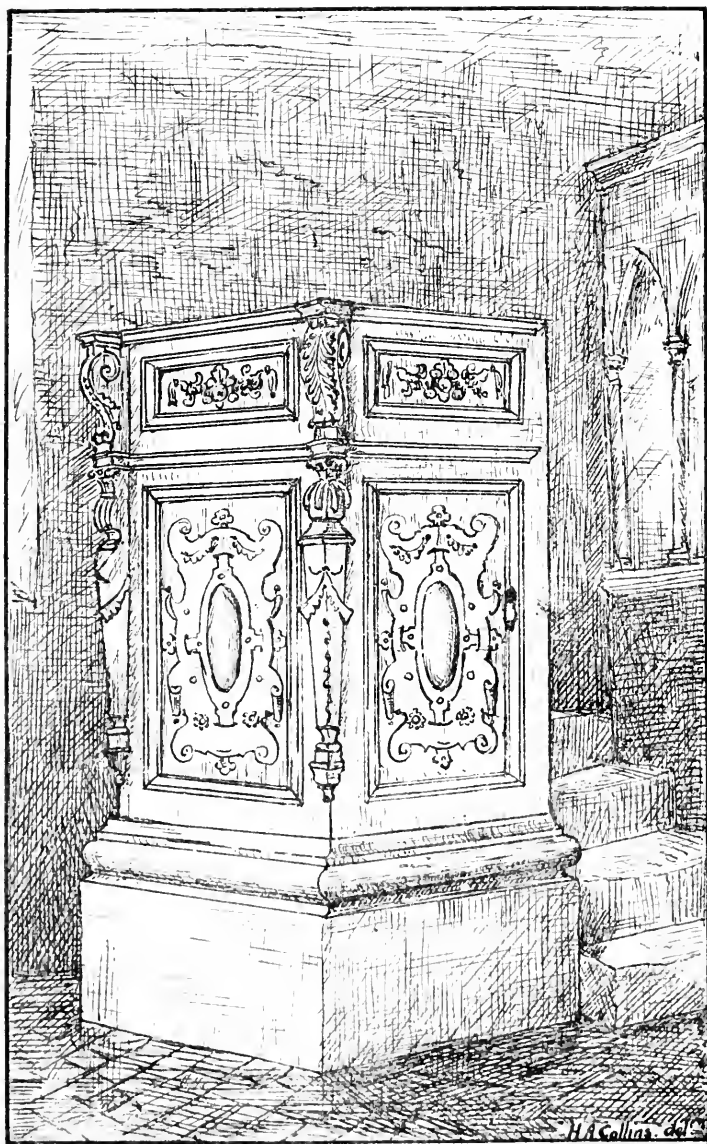
"It. for a hinge & a latch to the old pulpitt xijij^d."

"It. for an houre glasse & painting, and v turned banisters xijij^d."

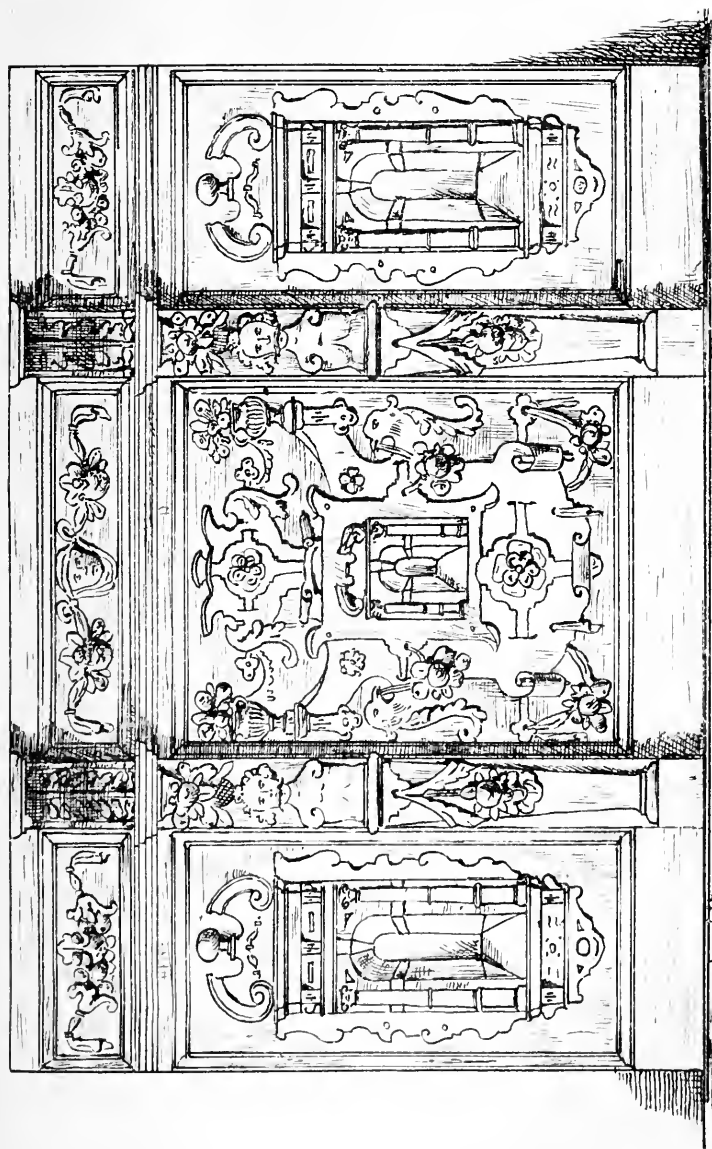
This pulpit was sold in 1741, when the present one was erected:—

"Oct. 6. Of M^r Slade for the old Pulpit, 4*l*. 4*s*. 0*d*."

From Hewett's "Hundred of Compton," p. 79, it would appear that the pulpit of 1639 was sold to the churchwardens of Aldworth, where it may still be seen, with the reading pew of corresponding style, though of somewhat more ornate workmanship. The three lower panels of the prayer desk are large, and exhibit porticos of a temple in perspective (basso-relievo). There are cherubs' heads, and



THE PULPIT, ALDWORTH.



J.A. Collins. del.

PRAYER DESK, ALDWORTH.

wreaths of flowers depending from perforated scroll-like designs peculiar to the Elizabethan and Jacobean styles. The panels are divided by pilasters with caryatides. The pulpit is similarly treated, but the lower panels instead of porticos have a shield-like design with scrolled and perforated margins.

The pre-Reformation pulpit stood somewhere about the middle of the nave, and probably near one of the pillars not far from the mayor's seat (see under "Jesus Altar," anno "1545"). The pulpit as it was in 1802 is thus described by Mr. Coates:—

"The pulpit is hexagonal, having a rich foliage of carved work running round the bottom and the compartments on each side. In each compartment is a piece of inlaid work : 1, the cross ; 2, the sacramental cup ; 3, the letters I. H. S., with a cross radiated ; 4, an open book, with the words 'Biblia Sacra' ; 5, an inlaid square with a border of scroll-work. The sounding-board is ornamented by a piece of inlaid work representing the Dove, from which flow rays terminated by stars in clusters. It is supported by two fluted pilasters of a composite order. It is said to be after the model of St. Giles-in-the-Fields."

The Rood Loft.

This was a large gallery immediately in front of the chancel arch, occupying the whole width of the nave, and extending westward as far as the great beam above Blagrave's monument. It was approached by a stone staircase in the south-east corner by the Lady Altar, where the blocked angle indicating its position still remains. The steps were removed and the hole filled up with rubble and grouting when the chancel arch was enlarged in 1848. The roof of the nave above the jubé was of a more ornate character than the western portion, and this distinction remained until very recent times. Mr. Coates writes (1802) : "From Blagrave's monument to the chancel the ceiling is elliptical, of panel work, with roses and other ornaments at each intersection." Upon the front of this gallery stood, or partly depended, the *Rood*, a carved representation (probably life-size) of the crucifixion, with the figures of SS. Mary and John standing by on the right and left of the Sufferer respectively. On the principal festivals the

"Gospel" for the day was read on the north side of this loft by the "Deacon," accompanied by acoliths with lighted tapers.

Here also the clerks sang the "Passion" on Palm Sundays.

The Rood Loft of St. Lawrence's seems to have been a goodly structure, and must have greatly enhanced the beauty and solemnity of the church. The underpart was ceiled, or perhaps groined, with oak work, and the altars beneath with their lighted tapers dimly seen through the trellis in front, must have had a striking and touching effect.

The following extracts will open many trains of thought which it would almost be impossible to follow with the pen :—

1436. "Et in fenr de la Selyng in le Roodloft sol' Johi Hale xxiijs^s iiij^d."

1498-9. "It. payed for vj laten bolls on the *north* syde of the rode loft viijs^s." (These were sconces for tapers: see 1510.)

„ "It. rec. at Alhalow tyde for the rode lyght x^s iiij^d."

„ "It. payed for xliijⁱⁱ of Iren warke on the south end of the rode loft to stay the lyght p'c the ti ij^d. sm^a vijs^s ij^d."

„ "It. payd for turnyd pynnys to the seid lyght vj^d."

„ "It. payed for scowryng of the laten bolts in the seid loft iiij^d."

„ "Itm. payed to Strawford for braggetts to fastyn the crests in þ^e same loft vj^d."

(Cressets were hollow vessels employed for holding lights. The term "crests" in architecture is used for any ornamental upper finishing, so the term may refer to any ornamental border standing on the upper front edge of the Rood Loft; but the expression "*in* the loft" seems to suggest the former interpretation.)

1488-9. "It. payed for a lyne to draw the curtens in the same loft iiij^d."

1505. "It. payed to Macrell for tendyng of the rode lyzt for makyng clene of the rode loft & for shottynge of the organs for a yer endyd at Mychælmass iiij^s viij^d."

„ "It. payed to the Clerks for syngyng of the Passion in Palme Sunday in Ale i^d."

1506. "It. paid for a line to draw the curtens in þ^e rode loft v^d."
- „ "It. paid for mending of þ^e wyer for þ^e clothe before þ^e rode v^d."
- „ "It. paid to Macrell for an holy busshe before the rode ij^d."
- „ "It. paid to M. Smith for making of the rode lyzt & for ij^{li} of new wax to the same iij^s iij^d ob."
1506. "It. paid to Thom's Wiche smyth for making of a key to the gret cofer in the rode loft, v^d."
- „ "It. paid to the same John Gege for setting up of the wier to draw the cloþ before the rode in the rode loft iij^d."
- „ "It. paid for the seling behynde the said rode vj^s."
- „ "It. paid for v coples to the seling above the rode loft xvj^s viij^d."
- „ "It. paid to Harry Blankstan paynt^d for gyldyng of the Rode Mary & John in the rode loft x^s iij^d."
- „ "It. paid for setting vp the seid rode Mary & John for removing of th^e organs & for making y^e sete for þ^e pleyer of þ^e same organs xx^d."
1507. "Paid to the goodman Cone for dressyng of y^e rodlowzt ij^s."
- 1510-11. "It. paid for clēsyng the Imagerye of the rode losfe at request of þ^e pisshe ij^s viij^d."
- „ "It. paid for Renewyng of the vj taps in the Rode on the north syde vj^{li} di off wax at vij^d a li. A li of sysis (*small tapers*) & for the maks of the same wax v^s ij^d ob."
1513. "It. paid for a claps (*clasp*) to the cofer in the rode loft iij^d."
1524. "It. for drynk in the roode loft vppon Palme Sunday j^d."
1534. "Paid for makeyng the rode lights ayenst Hallontyde & Cristmas xvij^d." (These were the usual times for renewing these lights.)
- „ "It. paid for a q^rte of *basterd* for the passion apon Palme Sunday iij^d."
- (Bastard, a kind of sweet Spanish wine, of which there were two sorts, white and brown. Ritson calls it a wine of Corsica. The term in

- more ancient times seems to have been applied to all mixed and sweetened wines.—*Halliwell*.)
1534. "Payd for a lyne to pull upp the rode cloth j^d ob."
- " "Payd to Pastler for setting the braunche (*a chandelier*) apon the rode loft & laying bordes there xvj^d."
- 1537-8. "Payd for staneing the long Curteyns before the rode loft x^s." (Staining—*i.e.*, painting with figures or other designs.)

In the account of the sale of church goods in 1547, among the articles of brass or latten purchased by John Saunders, the bellfounder, we find "xx laten bolls that were of the rode light."

At the sale of old church timber in 1562, "the borders of the roode lofte" were purchased by William Duddlesoll, and presented by him to be set up again over the vestry.

So much wanton destruction was made of artistic work in churches at this time by the Puritanical faction that an injunction was issued by the Queen prohibiting all further demolition of Rood screens, &c., until her further pleasure therein was known. The following entry is illustrative:—

1562. "Itm. Payde vnto Gyles Jackson the xv day of November for bryngynge the orders made by the queenes maiesties comyssyoners as consernynge th'alteracyons of Rood-Loftes—for his ffee viij^d."
1562. "Itm. to Willyam Marten and his man for the takinge downe of the roode lofte & the way to the same, &c. ij^s."

It was decided by the Queen that the lofts should be removed, but that the screens beneath them should remain in every church to mark the division between the nave and chancel.

It is probable that the destruction was complete at St. Lawrence's, and that the upper and lower portions were swept away before her Majesty's pleasure became known in Reading: at any rate, a new screen was erected in 1603 by Peter Andrews and Roger Knight, the churchwardens; for in the accounts for that year there is a marginal note in a later hand—apparently penned in no friendly humour—"They set up the skrine betweene the church and chancell."

It is not likely that this screen would survive the visitation of the fanatical soldiers of the Earl of Essex, who were quartered in the church in 1644, when they did so much mischief to the fittings and defiled the sanctuary to their heart's content. (See under *Ringings*.)

Organs.

The church possessed an organ in 1505 :—

“It. payd for whitleder to the belys of th'organs iij^d.”

In 1506, the “organs” were removed,—Mr. Coates thinks from the Rood loft, and makes his deduction from the following entry :—

“It. paied for setting up of the seid rode Mary & John, for removing of th'organs & for making y^e sete for þ^e pleyer of þ^e same organs xx^d.”

In 1510, a new instrument was provided :—

“It. payd to Backebye vppon a bargin of a peyr of orgⁿunce at the instaunce of the pisshe at ij tymes, iiij^{li}.”

Of this Mr. Cleche gave vj^s viij^d, and Mr. White xx^s. It was a large instrument, and the bellows were placed apparently below the level of the floor. At Fountains' Abbey are the remains of some underground channels near the west end of the choir, which are believed to have been reservoirs or wind-ducts to the organ above.

1512. “It. rec. for bryk and mor^l left at the making of the vowte (vault) for the belys of the organs xxj^d.”

„ “It. paied to Rob^t Barkbe organ maker xij^s iiij^d.”

„ “It. paied to M. White for waynscott that he bowght to the new organs xxxj^s.”

„ “It. payed to Rob^t Turner for such stuf as he delyued to the same organs xv^s x^d.”

1512. “It. payed for currying of the leder to the belys of the same organs ij^s ij^d.”

„ “It. payed to Ric' Turner & John Kent for the organ maker at one tyme xxxj^s vj^d.”

„ “It. payed for vj waynscotts at London xiiij^s.”

„ “It. payed to Ric' Turnⁿ & John Kent for the organ maker at a no^b tyme l^s.”

1512. "It. payed for led to ley vpon the belis of the organs vj^s viij^d.

(It seems that the old organ was retained, so now there were two instruments.)

1512. "It. payed for a shepeskyn to mend the belis of the *old* organs and for a fi of glew vij^d.

" "It. paied to a fre mason that shuld haue made the arch for the belis of the *new* organs for iiij dayes an di, by the day vj^d—ij^s iij^d.

" "It. payed to Thom^as Nycols for makynge of the same arch and for tyling of the same viij^s.

" "It. payed to a laborer to breke vp the wall to make the arch for iij dayes & a di by the day iiij^d sm^a xiiij^d.

1513. "It. payed to Hew Smyth for iron warke in the new organ loft x^d.

" "It. payd for ij lokks to the same organs, one for the stopps and the oþ^r for the keyes xj^d.

" "It. payed to Robte Barkbe organ maker for a reward v^s iiij^d.

" "It. payed for ryding to Wyndso^r to set M^r Wod (Wood) to se the new organs, x^d.

" "It. payed to the same M. for his costs at his comyng vij^s x^d.

" "It. payed Ric. a Woods costs when he came to se the organs vij^d (1512).

" "It. payed for a lok to the organ lofte dore & for iron warke to the same loft xij^d.

1513-4. "It. payd for mendyng and grownde pynnyng of the posts vnder the organs ij^d."

1514-5. Something was obviously amiss with Barkby's new organ; some faulty construction, or defect in the fulfilment of his engagement; perhaps the suit indicated by the following entry was the result of the visit of Richard a Wood, evidently the organist of St. George's at that time.

" "It. payd for a man & a hors to London for a wryt for Barkbye iiij^s ij^d."

" "It. payd to Willm Edmonds for makynge a fre to barkbye, j^d."

" "It. payd for expⁿs to barkbye at the same tyme, vj^s. viij^d."

" "It. payd for a pece of waynscote for mendyng of the stoppe of the same organs ij^d."

1514-5. "Sum of expenses touching Rob. Barkeby xiiij^d,
iiij^d."

1519-20. The pipes of Barkeky's great organ were sold to Segemond, another organ maker, who appears to have rebuilt or transposed it.

"It. of Segemond the organ maker for the grete organs CC dⁱ xiⁱⁱ (291 lbs.) of led ijⁱⁱ."

In the meantime "Young Slithurst" played upon the old organ. He was probably the son of Thomas Slithurst, who held two gardens in Lurkmer Lane of the churchwardens, at a yearly rent of 2s. 8d. at this time:

1520. "It. paid to Segemond the organ maker for transposing of the grete organs as apperithe by a bill thereof made vjⁱⁱ xx^d."

1521. "It. payd to Segesmond by thadvyse of the pysh tⁿsposyng & new castyng ye for fronte of the org^ans and setting yⁿ y^e new stope xiiij^s. iiij^d."

1522-3. Segemond appears to have been as unfortunate with his organ as Barkeby; at any rate there appears to have been fresh litigation:

"It. payd for a pcesse mayd agaynst Segemond, viij^s vj^d."

1524. "It. payd to S^r Ric. Baynton for mending the grett at ij tymes iiij^s."

1524-5. Another new organ.

"It. payd for karyeng the new org^ans from the wa^{te} to the church, xv^d."

It. to Troll for grownd pynnyng the org. ij^d.

It. for tymber & bords to the same iiij^s. ix^d.

It. for makeyng the paysses for the organs j^d.

It. to Ric. Bodye for workmanshypp iiij^s.

It. for brede drynk for the organ maker whylls he entewnyd the org. iiij^d."

From the inexpensive nature of these items, this must have been a small organ for the choir.

1526-7. "It. for a foldyng bord to the lytell orgons viij^d."

1529. "It. payd for mending the case of the *lytell organs* in the *ch^{ur}uncell* & the bellows of the same at ij tymes ij^s vj^d."

1531. "It. for mending the stopps of the grete organs ij^d."

1533. "Rec. of the ffreres in Oxford for the great organs
xⁱⁱ."

From subsequent entries it would seem that the great organ was sold to them for 12*l.* 10*s.*, but that the remaining 50*s.* were never paid before the Reformation swept both the Friars and their organ away altogether.

The organ built by Segismond and removed to Oxford in 1533 was succeeded by another which succumbed to Puritanical prejudice in 1578. There are no memoranda relating to its erection, and only one touching its demolition.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, 1562, certain articles were proposed for discussion in the Lower House of Convocation, evidently by the advanced Puritan party, the 6th of which was, "That the use of organs be removed." There were thirteen disputers, and out of 117 votes, organs were saved by a majority of one only!

In 1566, Bishops Grindle and Horne in their reply to the letter of Bullinger and Gualter on the subject of further reform, wrote, that they did not approve of that figured music, together with the use of organs, that was continued in cathedrals, in these words: "*Cantum in templis figuratum una cum strepitu organorum retinendum non affirmamus imo prout decet insectamur*" (see Burnet's "Reformation," iii. 319).

After this we shall be prepared for the following in the old church book:—

1578. "M^d on St. Andrews day being Advent Sunday & the last of November 1578, it was agreed That the organes in St. Johns chauncell for that they shoude not be forfeited into the hands of the organ takers shoulde be taken downe and solde; and the tymber of them be applied to sett up two seats higher for M^r Maior and his brethrene aboute the seate y^t now they sitt in."

"Pd. for taking down y^e orgaines xi^d."

"Solde to Rocke 37^{li} of leade which was organ metall, viij^s vj^d."

"Itm. xxiiij^{li} of Leade iij^s."

Pre-Reformation Organists.

1519. "Young Slithurst."

1534. "Thomas Alyn for playing at the organs for vij wekes ix^s."

"Thomas Skynn^y for playing at the organs xij^s."

1544. "Payd to Sayntmore the clerk for playing upon the orgayns ou & besydes the gatheryng of the pisshe for a yere endid ut sup^a xl^s."

The Present Organ

was erected in 1741 by subscription, including the sum of 30*l*. left by Dr. De la Croix, vicar of Old Windsor, for the support of the monthly lecture, which was applied to this purpose. It was built by Mr. John Byfield, and received the approbation of Mr. John Stanley and other competent judges of the time, who considered it a very fine-toned instrument. Mr. Coates states that it cost 400*l*., and contains 1179 speaking pipes; but it has been much enlarged since his time. In 1882 a very fine Viol de Gamba was substituted for the old Cremona, and the Trumpet-stop renewed by Mr. Aug. Gern, of London. It appears to have been opened on the 27th of July, 1741, when the local choir was augmented by the choristers from St. George's Chapel, Windsor. A Mr. Tomson seems to have presided at the organ on the occasion.

1741, July 27.	To Mr. Tomson, organist,	£	s.	d.
	and expenses for coach, & for the Windsor Boys	.	.	.
			8	15 0
„ July 30.	To Mr. Clark, organist	.	3	3 0
1741-2, Jan. 27.	To Mr. Spencer, organist,			
	half a year's salary	.	15	0 0
1742, Sept. 4.	Mr. Alcock, organist	.	10	0 0
„ Dec. 23.	To Mr. Alcock	.	15	0 0

Mr. Alcock was here in 1749, as appears from an original receipt for his stipend, still preserved :—

"1749, Dec. 1. Received of Mr. Cobb, Churchwarden, of St. Lawrence's Parish, in Reading, Berks, the sum of Ten Pounds, being part of my half

year's Salary for playing the Organ, due September 29, 1749,
p me, John Alcock, Organist."

He afterwards became organist of Lichfield Cathedral. Dr. Alcock's compositions are well known.*

Mr. Spencer succeeded in 1750, and on his death, in 1782, Mr. Remond was elected. He was followed by Mr. Naumberger.

The late Mr. Richard Binfield was organist from 1804 to 1839, and was succeeded by his accomplished daughter, Miss Hannah Binfield, whose services and connection with the church and choir will long be remembered. On Miss Binfield's resignation, in 1880, the present talented organist, Mr. C. H. H. Sippel, A.C.O., formerly of Cambridge, was elected.

The great Musical Festivals, held at Worcester, Gloucester, and Birmingham, during the present century, were inaugurated at Reading, and the performances were held for many years in St. Lawrence's Church. The "Messiah" was performed here in 1786, and "Judas Maccabæus" in 1787 and 1789. They were discontinued about the year 1840.

In 1819 the Musical Festival was held on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of September. The following particulars are from a reprint of the original programme in the possession of Miss Binfield. The programme is headed, "Berkshire Grand Musical Festival."

Then follows a list of 170 patrons, consisting of the nobility and gentry of the town and county. To these must be added thirty gentlemen stewards, among whom may be enumerated Sir Claudius Hunter, Bart., Lieut.-Col. Vansittart, T. P. W. Benyon, Esq., R. Dimsdale, Esq., B. Simonds, Esq., Wm. Stephens, Esq., J. Wheble, Esq., &c.

The great moving spirit appears to have been Mr. Richard Binfield, upon whom the selection of the requisite talent devolved.

On the first morning, September 15, was performed the entire First Part of Haydn's "Creation," a selection from Mozart's "Requiem," and other miscellaneous pieces, by Handel, Haydn, Arne, Beethoven, &c.

* His "Ode to Flavia" is printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for Nov. 1746, p. 605.

On the second morning, the Oratorio of the "Messiah," with additional accompaniment, by Mozart.

On the third morning, a grand selection from Handel's "Redemption;" the "Dead March in Saul;" Haydn's "Te Deum;" with other pieces by Guglielmi, Hasse, Pergolesi, Kent," &c., concluding with the grand Coronation Anthem, "Zadoc the Priest."

"PRINCIPAL VOCAL PERFORMERS.—Miss Stephens, Miss Goodall, and Signora Corri; Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Knyvett, Mr. Bellamy, and Signor Ambrogetti.

"INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMERS.—*Violins*.—Mr. F. Cramer (Leader), Mr. Marshall (Principal 2nd), Messrs. Binfield, F. Venua, W. Griesbach, Nicks, A. Binfield, N. Binfield, J. B. Binfield, Marshall, jun., Willcox, Greenwood, Tanner, Berkshire, Tanner, jun., and Paine.—*Violas*.—Messrs. R. Ashley, Richardson, Goodwin, W. B. Binfield, Shultz, and Weippert.—*Violoncellos*.—Messrs. R. Lindley, T. Binfield, and W. Binfield.—*Double Basses*.—Messrs. Dragonetti, Haldon and Berry.—*Bassoons*.—Messrs. Mackintosh and Downham.—*Trombones*.—Messrs. Mariotti and Brookman.—*Flutes*.—Messrs. Ireland and Kates.—*Oboes*.—Messrs. Griesbach and Sharp.—*Clarionets*.—Messrs. Stohwasser, and Pickworth.—*Horns*.—Messrs. Charlton, Berkshire, and Burton.—*Trumpets*.—Messrs. Schmidt, Heron, and Laden-sack.—*Serpent*.—Mr. Middleton.—*Double Drums*.—Mr. Jenkinson.—*Organ*.—Miss Binfield.—*Harp*.—Miss M. Binfield, from London.—*Conductor*.—Sir G. Smart.—The whole under the direction of Mr. Binfield.

"The Choruses will be supported by gentlemen of St. George's Chapel, Windsor; His Majesty's Chapel Royal; St. Paul's and Oxford; assisted by the celebrated female choristers from Lancashire.

"Leader of the Band for the Balls, Mr. Paine, of Almack's, so justly celebrated for arranging the quadrilles, and other fashionable dances.—Harp for the Balls, Mr. M. Weippert.

"The whole of the Band, which will be complete, will consist of nearly a hundred performers.

"The Morning Performances will commence at eleven o'clock; the Evening Performances at half-past seven.—Tickets of admission to the Morning Performances, 10s. 6d.—The Concerts at the Town Hall, the Ball and Tea included, 10s. 6d.

"It is requested that all carriages proceeding to the Musical Festival at St. Lawrence's Church will fall into line in the

Market Place, and set down at the west door in Friar Street, with the horses' heads towards the Town Hall; and after setting down, proceed up Friar Street.—On return, the carriages to form a line in Friar Street, and to take up at the west door of St. Lawrence's Church, and drive off through the Market Place.—Ladies and gentlemen walking to the church, to enter at the south door in the Market Place.—By direction of the magistrates, carriages will not be permitted to drive thro' the entrance to the Forbury, during the performances."

Images.

Besides the Rood with SS. Mary and John, on the Rood loft, there were images of the Blessed Virgin, St. Michael, St. Clement, St. Lawrence, St. George, St. Vincent, and probably of St. Leonard. There were also smaller ones standing in the niches over the columns in the nave and aisle. Some of these statues have already been referred to under the account of the Altars—*e.g.*, those of the B. V. Mary, SS. George, Clement, and Michael.

St. Michael.

1519. "It. paid for canvas for coulyng of Saynt Michell ij^d.
 "It. paid for cariage of the Image from Maynard of London iij^d."

St. Lawrence.

There were two images of the patron saint outside the building, one of which has already been described under the account of the *Tower*: the other was in a pentice at the east end of the chancel.

1520. "Itm. paid for bourds for makyng of the pentice ouⁿ the Image of Saynt Laurence and for setting vpp the same Image w^out the church at thest end of the quere iij^s ij^d."
 1542. "Payd to Richard Joyner for mending of the Image of Saynt Laurence iij^d."

There was an image of St. Lawrence apparently at one end of the *High Altar*.—(See *Will of Richard Bedowe*.)

There was probably an image of this saint in the niche over the easternmost pillar of the nave arcade above the shield with the gridiron.

St. Mary Magdalene.

(See Inventory of 1517 under *Vestments*.)

Her image appears to have been usually habited in a "coat" of cloth of gold, perhaps a royal mantle with sleeves, one phase of her legend representing her as of royal extraction and of the castle of Magdalon. Sometimes she was figured as the pattern of Penitence, with wasted figure, long dishevelled hair, and habited in a blue or violet robe the colour of mourning or contrition.

St. George.

This image was mounted on horseback, with arms and trappings complete.

(See under *Altars*, p. 45.)

St. Vincent.

1524. "It. to John Payn's wyff for gyldyng of pte of Saynt Vyncent Tabernacle iij^s iiij."

We are here indirectly informed that the image of St. Vincent stood beneath a canopy.

1518-9. "It. paid for cariage of the tab^ynacles by the barge vj^s."

"It. paid Cone for setting up the tab^y-nacles ij^s vj^d."

"It. paid for making of a scaffold ij^d."

"It. paid for iiij clammes of iron for the tab^y-nacles viij^d &c."

There is perhaps no single entry in the old church books from which we may form so correct an estimate of the real magnificence of the church in the olden time as the following :—

1519. "It. paid to John Payn in Ernest of xiiij^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d for gilding of the ij Tab^ynacles in the quere, w^t all necessities therto xx^s."

At this period the wages of a first-class artisan was 6*d.* a day—of a labourer 4*d.*: workmen at the present time receive ten times the amount; reckoning therefore by this standard, the outlay in gilding these tabernacles alone was equal to about 136*l.* 10*s.* of our money.

1516. "It. payd to the Kyngs paynter for a reward for seying the tab^ynacle vij^s viij^d."

The images were all removed and defaced in 1547. Here are a few particulars of the doings of the iconoclasts of that period:—

1547. "Rec. for c^ytain trifylls that were saved (*implying much wanton destruction*) at the takyng down of Imag^s as followith, that is to witt:

"Of Rob^t Euard for all the Imag^s beyng defaced xvij^d. Of a shomaker for c^ytain tab^ynacles and other thyng^s ij^s viij^d.!!! (and they cost 136*l.* for gilding only).

"Paide to ij carpenters for takyng downe the Imag^s and tabernacles xij^d."

"Paid to Geoffry Penne & his man for emendyng of the walls wher Imag^s stode xij^d."

There is a very significant entry indicative of the state of popular feeling at this time, aroused chiefly by the selfish conduct of the promoters of the Reformation and greatly augmented by the spoliation and robbery of the parish churches and the appropriation of common lands—the latter a political sop for powerful non-contents. Here it is:

"Paid for arrerages of the money for watchyng the *bekyns* viij^s."

There is another interesting entry immediately following, exhibiting the statecraft of the period. The church plunderers were quite aware in those days that unemployed leisure to brooding minds might prove a source of danger; so it was enacted that every parish should provide its "Butts," where the parishioners might become proficient in archery—for the safety of the realm, of course.

"Paid to Willm Watlyngton for that the pisshe was indetted to hym for makyng the butts xxxvi^s."

Mural Paintings.

The walls of the church were once covered with diapers and frescoes, some of which were very magnificent.

St. Christopher.

Anno 1503-4. "It. payd to Mylys paynē for payntyng of Seynt X^ofer viij^s iij^d."

"It. payed for new pgetyng (plastering) of þ^e wal wher S. X^ofer is pātyd vj^d."

The legend of St. Christopher was in high favour in the Middle Ages, and the chief allegorical incident in the story was usually depicted on the walls of the churches.

He is usually represented as a man of huge stature, fording a turbid river. His staff is grasped with both hands, and on his shoulders he bears the infant Saviour, carrying in His hand a globe as Sovereign and Creator of the world. More rarely it is a cross—as its Redeemer. The giant is usually depicted with upturned face, as if in earnest conversation with the Child, but sometimes gazing intently and anxiously on the rising waters. His staff is frequently foliated. Occasionally it is an entire palm-tree with leaves and branches. In the background by the water-side is a hermit with a lantern. The fish, of course, are nearly always visible in the stream.

The following is one of the many inscriptions which usually accompanied the figure of the saint :—

*Christophori sancti speciem quicumque tuetur
Illo namque die nullo languore tenetur.*

Mrs. Jameson, in her "Sacred and Legendary Art." p. 265, gives the legend at length, with a copy of a fine early woodcut of this saint exhibiting all the quaint conventionalism of mediæval art, and probably as much like Miles Painter's production in St. Lawrence's as could be.

St. Leonard.

1521. "It. payed to John Paynⁿ for payntyg of Sent leonard left by the wyffs onpaynted xx^d."

This saint is claimed by the Benedictines as a member of their Order, and either wears the white or the black tunic, fastened round the waist with a girdle. Sometimes he has a crosier as abbot of the community he founded. Occasionally he wears the dress of a deacon. He was invoked by prisoners, or slaves, and all who pined in captivity.

At Siena is a picture of St. Leonard kneeling and presenting fetters to the Virgin and Child. At Florence he is portrayed in the habit of a deacon, standing by the side of St. Lawrence throned, with St. Stephen on the other. (Mrs. Jameson.)

The Transfiguration.

Anno 1526. "It. to the payn^t for paynting the t^ansfigura^on ou^t the hygh aw^t vj^{li} xij^s iiij^d."

The cost was defrayed by public subscription.

"Rec. of dy^us psones towards the gyldyng & paynting of the t^ansfigura^on ou^t the hygh aut^t as by a byll it doth apere iiij^{li} xij^s j^d."

"Rec. for $\frac{xx}{iii}$ & x^{li} & di (90 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) of old brase sold at j^d the pownde xj^s. iiij^d. Smⁿ v^{li} iiij^s j^d."

A full description of the discovery of this painting in 1848 will be found at the end of this section.

The chancel roof was adorned with gold and colours, if not with subjects and diapers.

1524. "It. to Trol for his labo^r in seellyng & in reward xij^s."

„ "It. layd owt for gold xxij^s iiij^d."

„ "It. to the paynter for *drawyng* & *paynting* the enbowyng (probably a panelled waggon vaulted ceiling like that in the north aisle) xvj^s iiij^d."

„ "It. for ij knotts (bosses) in the chancell vj^s."

„ "It. for gyldyng of them ij^s."

The nave arches were originally ornamented with red stripes, and the niches between them with red borders.

There are also traces of colour on the font, and on the eastern face of the piers of the tower arch.

In 1547 all the paintings and frescoes were defaced :—

“Paid for iiij boketts for the werkmen to whytelyme the churche xij^d.”

“Paid to Alexander Lake a mason for xxiiij dayes for hym & his s^lant in white lymyng of the churche at ix^d the day xvij^s iij^d.”

“Paid for coleryng of the churche porche & the churche dores xix^d.”

“Paid to a paynter for writyng of the cloth at the high Awter ij^s iij^d.”

In the place of the old frescoes texts of Holy Scripture were painted on the whitewashed walls, and the objective method, so suitable for instruction, was made to yield to subjective policy.

In the following reign, anno 1556, we have—“Paid for defasyng of the wrytyngs vppon the walls ther, iij^d.” These Edwardian inscriptions were buried beneath another coat of lime, and, as far as possible, the old pictures replaced, but only again to be smeared over with dreary Elizabethan wash a few years afterwards.

In 1627 a little attempt was made to beautify the scene of cheerless desolation.

“It^m. payd to Jonathan the Paynter for payntinge the church seats and for payntinge the sprigs (of the hourglass), ffloorishing M^r Blagraves monument, as by the paynters bill appereth in p^ticular xvth ix^s vij^d.”

The author of this work is deeply indebted to Arthur Billing, Esq., architect, 185, Tooley Street, London Bridge, for the following very interesting account of the mural paintings discovered in St. Lawrence's in 1848:—

“The east wall of the chancel was almost entirely hidden by a large wooden altar screen of Queen Anne's or George the First's era, placed directly in front of it, the wall immediately behind being, as is universally the case, carefully coated upon the surface with successive layers of white-wash, the careful removal of which disclosed no less than five different series of paintings, one beneath the other.

“The first and second were each portions of the Creed and Ten Commandments, painted in different periods in

old English characters ; the third, immediately beneath these, consisted of the chosen sentences of Holy Writ in the quaint spelling of the period, such as follows :—‘ That at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow,’ &c. These letters were of a more decidedly rich and flowing character than those before described, with graceful enrichments of leaves and sprigs, each sentence being enclosed within a border of blue.

“ Beneath these were next brought to light the remains of a magnificent fresco of the Annunciation ; on the left, or north side, was a full-sized figure, supposed to represent the Archangel Gabriel, the body being covered with red feathers, the shoulders surmounted with wings of rainbowed plumage, and the hand carrying a long wand ; the upper façade of a Gothic building formed the background. The figure of the Holy Virgin kneeling at a faldstool, and the accompanying symbolic pot of white lilies, were much more imperfect, but could still be traced without difficulty. Doubtless there were other paintings of a similar character upon different portions of the wall, but they had been all destroyed.

“ The surface of the wall now just described was formed by the filling up of a large triplet window, composed of the several splays and small columns dividing it into three separate portions, with its characteristic arch mouldings extending themselves on the inside the whole width of the east wall of the chancel. The lancet lights forming the window were placed within a few inches of the outside of the wall. These windows belong to the period of transition from Norman to Early English, as is distinctly shown by the character of the mouldings and square Norman abacus forming the upper member of the caps to the columns: the whole of the inside mouldings and columns were formed of chalk, and were in a good state of preservation.

“ The columns were found to be covered with a bright crimson colour: the neck mouldings to the caps and the bases with gilding. The arch mouldings supported by these were adorned with a beautiful triple arrangement of gilding, crimson and blue, the larger roll moulding having an alternate stripe of gilding and blue, the effect of which, when first painted, must have been very striking. In addition to this, upon the several splays of the windows could be traced a pattern, consisting of a bright crimson flowing

stalk, having the ends tipped with bright yellow flowers, harmonizing with the colours on the arch mouldings, and continuous throughout the splays, a manner of treatment which must greatly have contributed to the general effect.

“Upon the upper portion of these splays, immediately beneath the arch mouldings, were painted small figures of angels, with their hands and wings extended, and having each in their hands a small wand, but they were too mutilated to be transferred to paper. Lastly, beneath all these layers were a number of small flowers, each consisting of six leaves of a bright crimson colour on a white ground, enclosed with an oblong crimson border. This pattern was continuous throughout.

“Upon the space immediately above the triplet window was discovered a large painting of seven figures, nearly the size of life, the subject being the Transfiguration on the Mount. The centre figure represented our Saviour standing erect with the right hand uplifted, in the act of blessing. His face was exquisitely painted upon a groundwork of gilding, which extended beyond it, and formed the aureole, and the whole figure was surrounded with a vesica piscis of glory. On His right hand stood Moses, with the two Tables of the Ten Commandments in his hands. Looking upwards towards the left was Elias; upon the same side were represented, below, the upper portions of the figures of two of the Disciples, and on the other side two more, all looking steadfastly up and in attitudes of adoration. The whole of the figures, and especially the faces, were exquisitely painted. The picture covered the whole extent of the surface above the triplet to each side of the chancel wall.*

“The east wall of St. John’s Chapel is also not without interest. Previous to its restoration it exhibited nothing but that of the usual characteristics of the Perpendicular style, having a window of large dimensions, consisting of three lights, the head of which was again divided into smaller compartments. It was evident there was much painting on the wall, but it was not possible to clear the surface sufficiently to define what it really was, on account of an incrustation of many ugly monuments; but upon removing some of the plaster, as well as the whitewash, there appeared the remains of two small shafts of columns

* Sad to say, this picture was “*hacked down*,” at the desire of the then Vicar, while Mr. Billing was in London.

on either side of the window, almost flush with the wall; these, upon being traced out, gave the arch mouldings of each, and a portion of the inner arches to two lancet windows; the upper portion of these arches had not been disturbed, the panelled ceiling having been added when the larger perpendicular window was inserted. The centre portion only had been removed, so that it was easy to make out two small lancets or a couplet arrangement similar to the triplet in the chancel, and of not much later date, showing that the chancel and chapel were nearly coeval. Upon carefully removing the whitewash on the remaining portions of the arches, traces of painting were discovered sufficient to decide what they once were, being similar to those in the chancel, and composed of gilding, crimson and blue.

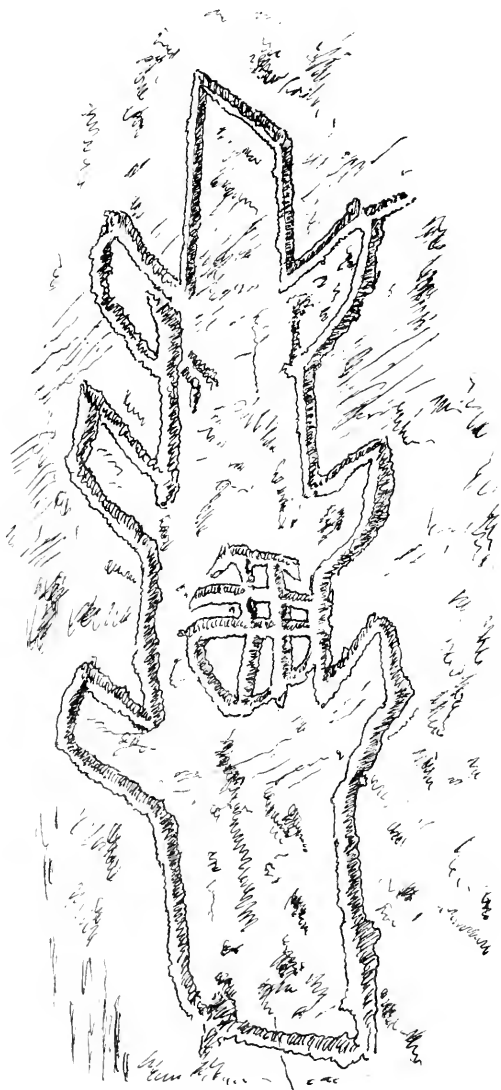
"Between the arches of the windows was painted a peculiar animal of a deep crimson colour, having the head of an eagle, and body and tail like a fox, with wings attached to its shoulders. This, no doubt, had some mystical or symbolical meaning.

"Upon the north side of this wall were remains of a large painting of a very peculiar flowing pattern, jet black in colour; the extreme bordure above, and at the sides, being of a rather light crimson—the inner bordure of a light blue colour, and that again bordured by a pattern formed of small spaces, nearly square, with a round portion in the centre of each. The whole appeared to form the corner-piece of a large bordure, from the peculiar character of which, and its position (for it was above the Perpendicular ceiling), it must be considered nearly coeval with the windows themselves. . . . The design is peculiarly elegant, the scrolls intertwining and flowing together in a most graceful manner, and each terminating with the peculiar trefoil leaf, the symbolism of which is obvious."

Mural Inscriptions.

The face of the inner ashlers of the tower from basement to summit reveal the Englishman's propensity to perpetuate his memory by engraving his initials.

On the north wall of the ringing chamber we have



Device on North East Pier of Tower. (full size.)

p. 75.

C. Kerry.

"R. W. 1596," D. W. On the west wall, T. B. 1692. The window jambs of the bell-chamber are literally scored with these mementoes. On the south window we find "R. KEATE, 1784." "I. D. 1696." On the west window, in letters of the seventeenth century, deeply engraven, appears the name of "WILD." On the east window "I. D. 1669." "R. R. 1747." "T. H. 1646."

On the level of the old ringing-loft, before mentioned, these initials are still more numerous; one of them, "I. V. 1599," is very visible from the ground-floor. On the western face of the north pier of the tower arch is the name "**Calcroft**," lightly but neatly engraven; the characters appear of the early Elizabethan period. On the same level there is another written about the same time, "**rokcbp**." Again, but in an earlier character, we find "**Brebis Oratio penetrat celū**." Lower down, "THOM: POCOCK," "E. S. 1660." On the east pier of the nave arcade, "W.T. 1626," "E. L. 1690," "F. B. 1654."

Very many of these interesting autographs have been much injured by the destructive "drag" of the church restorer. Such an instrument ought to be entirely prohibited in the restoration of our old churches, teeming, as most of them are, with innumerable traces of bygone generations.

By far the most interesting of all these relics is the device, or cognizance, of the Earls of Warwick, "*The Ragged Staff*." It appears in no less than five places on the tower basement.

The most perfect of these is on the eastern face of the north pier, opposite the font. In the middle of the staff is a small shield bearing a cross.

If the cross be intended for a *cross "saltire"*, then it must have been carved by one of the retainers of Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick, the great "kingmaker," who was buried in Bisham Abbey in 1471, and who bore "Gules, a saltire arg^t, with a label gobonné arg^t & azure;" but if not, then it was probably the work of one of the retainers of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, fifth son of John Dudley, Earl of Warwick (created in 1547). The second wife of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, was Lettice, daughter of *Sir Francis Knollys*, Treasurer of the Household to Queen Elizabeth, by whom he had a son named Robert, Earl of Denbigh, who died young and without issue. This Robert died at Cornbury Lodge, Oxfordshire, 1588, and was buried at Warwick.—*Vide* Ralph Brook's Catalogue, 1622.

Warwick. Now, by my father's badge, old Nevil's crest,
 The Rampant Bear chain'd to the *Ragged Staff*,
 This day I'll wear aloft my burgonet.
 SHAKESPEARE, *Second Part of King Henry VI.*

"Arthgal, the first Earl of Warwick in the time of King Arthur, was called by the ancient British 'The Bear,' for having strangled such an animal in his arms; and Morvidius, another ancestor of this house, slew a giant with a club made out of a young tree; hence the family bore the Bear and Ragged Staff."—*History of Signboards*, Camden Hotten. 1866.

In a fluting of the south pier of the tower arch the name "Symson" occurs; and, near this, the commencement of another name or word in text-hand, "hum," all in characters of the Tudor period.

Painted Windows.

By one fell stroke, "the storied windows richly dight" were swept way, and plain glass substituted in 1549, at a cost of 15*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

We may form some estimate of the beauty of the old glass by its superb surroundings. In many other churches much was allowed to remain, although perhaps a few saintly heads, or a few offending symbols, had to be sacrificed to the spirit of the age; but in St. Lawrence's not one fragment was left. There is a note at the end of the accounts for 1549 which has been carefully erased, but which is still faintly legible. It shows that, at any rate, the storied panes were not forgotten—"It. to remembre what was done w^t all the old glasse of the wyndows in the churche." There is no further clue recorded. Was it sold? was it broken? or does it still grace the windows of some continental church? Whatever may have become of it, there is no lover of art in Reading at the present day who would not gladly hail its restoration, if only to contrast with modern work.

St. Lawrence's unfortunately possesses too many examples of the bad work of the present century. Perhaps the best specimens of colouring characteristic of a particular period may be seen in the lancets over the altar, but this is disfigured by the wretched treatment of the figures in the medallions.

Seats.

Seat rents appear to have been a source of church revenue from very early times.

Anno 1441-2. "Et de iiij^d de dono vx'is Johis Tanner p j scell." A similar sum was paid by the wives of Robert Hover, John Strode, and Thomas Benham, but 6*d*. was given by the wife of Nicholas Carter—for a *front* sitting no doubt.

The seat rents in 1498 amounted to 6*s*. 6*d*. The women only would appear to have been accommodated. The seatholders at this time were the wives of Thomas Smyth, Hudson, "bocher," John Carpynter, the mother of Agnes Quedamton, the wife of Will. Hasyllwood, John Ffauxbye, Will. Watts, Will. Jonson, Bartylmew Capper, Robard Dyer, John Darling, Will. Dayntre, baker, Mathew and Nicholas Goldsmyth.

1515-6. "Also hit is aggreyd that all women that shall take any seate in the seid churche to pay for the same seate vj excepte in the mydle range & the north range be neth the font the which shall pay but iiij^d & that euy woman to take her place euy day as they cumyth to church excepte such as have ben mayo^rs wyfs."

1520-1. "Setis." "Itm. of my lord (the abbot) for his moder sete iiij^d."

A touching entry. Hugh Faringdon in his promotion to the abbacy, though a man of humble extraction, did not overlook, or forget to provide for, the comfort of his poor aged mother.

In 1522 new seats were provided at a cost of 8*l*. 12*s*. 2*d*.

1527-8. "Rec. of M^r Barton for a seate for his madens viij^d."

"Rec. of M^r Hyde for his mades seat iiij^d."

1529. "Rec. of Wilt^{am} (*barb^r to my lord abbot*), for his wyffes seatt vj^d."

1532. "The midle rang afore the font."

1538. "The midle range beneth the crose aley."

From these two entries, and the former of 1515-6, we learn the position of the font at this time. It stood in the

nave in the *middle range* of seats, and *in the path* from the south door into the north aisle.

The wives of the Brethren of the Mass of Jesus had special privileges.

1545. "Ordinaunce"—"And ouⁿ that it is ordered & enacted that all women of the said pisshe whose husbands nowe be or heretofore have been bretherne of the Mass of Iⁿic, shall from hensforth sitt & have the highest seats or pewes nexevnto the mayo^rs wifs seate towards the pulpitt."
1554. Sep. 29. "At this day it was condescended that thes p^{er}sons heraft^r named shall take order for the seats in the churche as well for men as for women—Wittm Edmüds, John Bell, Thom^{as} Turnⁿ, and Thomas Sayntmore."
1572. "Itm. The gatheringe at Whytsontyde for all the woomens seates aboue the saide south churche dore as well of the mydle Raynge as the said syde Range in this Whytsontyde was nothinge."
- 1573 "In consideracion that the colleccions or gatheringes heretofore accostomably vsed for and towards the mayntenance of the Church as well on the feast of All Saintes, The Feast of the Byrthe of ovr Lord god, as on Hocke Monday, Hocke Tewesday, Maye Daye, and at the feast of Penticost comonly called Whitson-tyde togyther wth the Chauntery Landes are lefte of, and cleane taken from the Churche to the great Impoverishment thereof, the w^{ch} heretofore dyd muche healpe the same, It is therefore of necessytye by and wth the assent, consent and agreeament of the pisheners then and there beinge p^{re}sente for and towards the mayntenance of the contynuall chardges of the Churche by these p^{re}sents for eumore Ordayned, concluded vpon and fully agreed as hereafter followith, That is, that every woman that heretofore hathe byn sett by any of the Churchwardens, or that of themselves do or have vsed to sytt on the Sondayes or holydayes in any of the seates beneath the pulpett, and above the southe syde, church doore, or in any of the seates in the mydel Raynge of seats above the

saide church doore Shall yerely paye iiij^d a pece for the church profytt & towards the contynuall chardgs therof at two Feasts in the yere, That is to say At the feast of the Byrthe of o^r Lord god, and at the feast of pentycost by even por^cōns. And that all women that be or have byn sett by or wthout the Churchwardens in any of the seates on the south syde Rainge above the pulpett Shall yerely paye vj^d apece at the foresaid feasts by even por^cōns. The same to be gathered by the Churchwardens or their assignes for the tyme beinge at their pell &c.”

1576. Queen Elizabeth attended divine service at St. Lawrence's.

“Expenses about Ringers the Queene being in Rheding: In bred drinke money and candells to watche the Quenes seate wth the travise and arras hanging in the chaunsell, vij^s iiij^d.”

“The ratement & payment for Seats in St. Lawrence's Church & Chancell in Readinge agreed and rated by the p^rishioners to be levied yearly for ever beginning this yere 1607.”

In St. John's Chancell.

(4*d*.) Mr. Romano, Mr. Bird, schoolmaster.

Mr. Dewberye, Mr. Newton, Mr. Morley, Mr. Bun, the groomes.

Mr. Robert Grenefeld, Mr. Bailey, the groomes.

“The North Ile.”

SEATS.

1. (At 4*d*. Parishioners.) Mr. Colthirst, John Walker, Humfrey Ffynmore, Thomas Noye, William Green. (The easternmost seat in the North Aisle proper.)
2. William Thorne, Francis Blake, Roger Walker, John Patison.
3. Edmond Cowper, John Mappleton, John Goodbarnes, Rich. Pyнке, Rich. Blakman, John Dewell.

SEATS.

4. Robert Dye, Arther Curtys, Robert Bent, Rich. Springall, Richard Johnson, Will. Sone.
5. Will. Wylande, John Hamblen, Michæll Hamblen, Willm. Willes, John Rumsey, Nicholas Styles.
6. (At 3*d*.) Thom. Richards, John Bagley, Ric. Dell, Tho. Standen, Will. Walker, Rob^t Griffith.
7. John Charlton, John Bonevant, Will. Porter, Will. Horne, John Burden, John West.
8. John Nashe, Ric. Case, Geo. Millisent, Danyell Pearse, John Ellys, Tho. Thorne.
9. Dan. Clewe, Xpof Thorne, John Jenyns, Peter Burningham, Edward Bagley, Ric. Cooke, John Wylmer.
10. Thomas Locke, Ric. Cottrell, Tho. Hide, John Berrey, Will. Crunage, Mr. Walton.
11. Saboth Ffilpe, Edw^d Merifield, Ric. Bunsen, Will. Drusill, Rob. Kenton, John Arther.
12. Nich. Lamphier, Peter Burren, Will. Saunders, Ric. Reddatt, Hen. Randall, Ffrancis Ffrancissar, W^m Bagley, Ed. Bradway.
13. John Malthus, Tho. Humfry, John Watlington, John White, Will. Ledburye, Ric. Bagley, John Coles.
14. Jas. Mason, Tho. Pococke, John Mapleton, jun^r, Edward Symons.
15. John Dawson, John Mylles, Nat. Jemott.
16. Tho. Willys, Symon Maynard, Geo. Woolridge, John Ryder, Will. Milthecoe, Will. Stitche, Hen. Moore, Andrewe Mace.
17. John Howse, Edm^d Bennett, Griffyn Huse, Symon Ffoord.
18. Gabriell Barnes, Tho. Marshall, Abram Paise, Rich. Walker, Edw^d Banester.
19. (At 2*d*.) Goodwife Waight, Goodwife Shawe, Goodwife Pommell.
Mr. Walton, iij.

Middle Aisle.

1. (At xij*d*.) Mr. Thomas Lydell, Mr. Edward Clerke, Mr. Edward Birmingham, Mr. Rob^t Malthus.
2. (At viij*d*.) Mr. Rob^t Calton, Mr. Chamberlyn, Walter Watlyngton, Josephe Carter,* John Bagley, sen^r.
3. John Newman, Tho. Burges, Roger Knight, John Johnson.

* Bellfounder.

SEATS.

4. (At vjd.) Mr. Burdon, Mr. Wylmere, Mr. Addams, Mr. Westley, Mr. Fforster, Mr. Bowden.
5. (At 4d.) Mrs. Bowden, M^{ris} Mary Calton, Mrs. Griffen, Goodwife Pynke, Mrs. Newport.
6. (At 3d.) Goodwife Mapleton, G-w. Cottrell, G-w. Hamblen, G-w. Richards, Mrs. Beake, G-w. Browne, G-w. Bayley.
7. Goodwife Yether, G-w. Locke, G-w. Standen, Jane Bagley, G-w. Stiche, G-w. Collyns.
8. Goodwife Childe, G-w. Pearce, G-w. Merrifield, G-w. Symons, G-w. Clere.
9. Goodwife Randall, G-w. Jenyns, G-w. West, G-w. Burren, G-w. Sedburye, G-w. Bonevant, G-w. Ffilpe, G-w. Horne, jun^r.
10. Goodwife Kenton, G-w. Cane, G-w. Thorne, jun^r.
11. Goodwife Coles, G-w. Lamphies.
12. Goodwife Payne, Ffrannces Jenott, Alice Bagley, Eliz. Hoost, G-w. Reddatt, Priscilla Plant.
13. (At 2d.) Robert Robinson, Ric. Harris, W^m Dumper, Thos. Hazes, jun^r, W^m Joseph, W^m Spencer.
14. Ffrancis Payne, Thomas Illesley, Thomas Watmore, Walter Bailey, John Grippe.
15. Hugh Payte, George Ffeild, Arthur Hooker, Tobye Merritt, Thom. Aley, W^m Mathewe, John Watts.
16. (At 1d.) Mrs. Walten, Goodwife Frankley, G-w. Gunnys, G-w. Browne.
17. Goodwife Pococke, G-w. Ffisher, G-w. Banester.
18. Goodwife Willis, G-w. Joanse, G-w. Grenfeld.
19. Griffin Huse, Goodwife Hollys.

“The South Ile.”

1. S^r Ffrauncis Knollis.
2. Ladye Knollis.
3. (At 4d.) M^{ris} Clarke, Mrs. Lydall, Mrs. Birmingham, Mrs. Malthus, Mrs. Dennison.
4. Mrs. Calton, Mrs. Malthus, M^{ris} Honys, M^{ris} Lane, M^{ris} Watlington.
5. Widdowe Styles, Goodwife Bagley, G-w. Carter, M^{ris} Knight, G-w. Johnson.
6. Mrs. Newman, M^{ris} Westley, Goodwife Ffnymore, Widdowe Thorne, G-w. Samson.

SEATS.

7. Goodwife Wye, G-w. Thorne, G-w. Walker, G-w. Walker, G-w. Wilmer.
8. M^{ris} Fforster, Goodwife Pattison, Widdow Mansell, Widdowe Curtys, G-w. Clarke, G w. Grene.
9. Goodwife Hamblen, G-w. Wilmer, G-w. Bent, G-w. Mathewe, Mrs. Dewell, G-w. Goodbarns.
10. Goodwife Sone, G-w. Rumsey, G-w. Springall, G-w. Styles, G-w. Curtis.
11. Goodwife Greene, G-w. Porter, G-w. Newman, G-w. Curtis, G-w. Cowper.
12. Goodwife Samson, G-w. Burden, G-w. Cooke, G-w. Walker, G-w. Buringham, Gooddie Bayley.
13. Goodwife Washe, G-w. Millisent, G-w. Myllet.
14. M^{ris} Morley, Mrs. Bailey, Goodwife Walker, G-w. Burren, & Burmingham.
15. Goodwife Blackman, G-w. Ffrancissen.
16. (At 2d.) Goodwife Humfrey, G-w. Bailey, G-w. Ffielder, G-w. Price, G-w. Bramley, G-w. Buckshieves.
17. Goodwife Moore, G-w. Watlington, G-w. Watlington, G-w. Woolridge, G-w. Josephe.
18. Wid. Vinege, Goodwife Thornburye, Wid. Hussey, G-w. Browne.
- 19.
20. Goodwife Densill.
- 21.
22. Goodwife Marshall.
23. Goodwife Dell, Alice Hull, Anne Yare, Margery Walker."

1637. "Item pd W^m Meerbancke for rearing the seate higher for the Burgesses wives 9^s 0^d."

In 1860-1, the church was reseated with substantial benches of oak, designed by Jos. Morris, Esq. Arch^t.

The only faculty pew in the church is connected with house now held by Edward Wells, Esq., M.D.

Galleries.

These were removed in 1848 and 1867. The following particulars are given by Mr. Coates:—"In the year 1719 a faculty was granted by the Archdeacon of Berks, for erecting a gallery at the west end of St. Lawrence's Church,

and on part of the north and south sides. This gallery was built by a subscription of the inhabitants; and by the faculty a power was vested in the vicar and churchwardens of placing and seating the inhabitants, paying regard to those who contributed most liberally to the erecting of the said gallery. In 1775 it was agreed that, 'As the original contributors to the gallery should drop off, the pews which they occupied should be let, and the profits arising from them should be appropriated, one moiety to the vicar in augmentation of the vicarage, and the other moiety in aid of the churchwardens' levy.'"

"In 1740, Mr. Boudry, then vicar of St. Lawrence's, obtained a faculty to take down a small old gallery at the north-east end of the church, and part of the gallery at the west end of the church, belonging to the Rev. Haviland John Hiley and Mr. Henry Simeon, and to build a new gallery at his own expense on the north part of the said church, and on the west part of the north chancel, with the power of letting the seats, and of receiving the rents and profits thereof to his own use, and that of his successors for ever. A seat was allotted rent free to Mrs. Elizabeth and Mrs. Anne Eades, for themselves and their boarders, as long as either of them should be alive and keep school in the parish. A seat was likewise allotted to Mr. Hiley for his life and one for his boarders, and front seat to Mr. Henry Simeon."

"In 1768 Dr. Nicholson, then vicar, erected a gallery at the east end of the church over the entrance into the chancel, at the expense of 60*l.* advanced by himself, and being assisted by a benefaction of 63*l.* from St. John's College. The rents arising from the pews in this gallery are appropriated to the vicar."

The Bells.

The bells are first mentioned in the roll of 1433, and are severally distinguished by the terms "*little*," "*middle*," and "*great*;" from which, it would seem, there were then but *three*.

Something was done to the belfry in 1458, when probably another bell was added: there were certainly *four*

when Henry Kelsall made his will in 1493, when he made provision for a new tenor in these words :—

“ Item, I will and charge that a Tenour bell to be made according to the iiij bellis that now hange in the stepyll of Saynte Lawrence church of Reding aforseide to the some of — (there is a blank left in the will). The scripture to be made aboute the same Bell—“ *Henry. The Bell of Ihu.*”

As Kelsall was the founder of the “ Jesus Mass” in this church (see his will), it is probable that this bell of his was used chiefly for the services connected with the Jesus Altar and the requirements of the Fraternity of Jesus. The bell was not erected before 1498–9, when we find the record of its consecration :—

“ Itm. payed for halowyng of the grete bell namyd Harry, vij^s viij^d.

“ And ovir that Sir Wiltm Symys, Rich Clech and maistres Smyth beyng godfaders and godmoder at the consecracyon of the same bell and beryng al oþ^r costs to the suffrygan.”

William Hasylwod was a bellfounder at Reading from 1494 to 1509, and he may have been the founder of “ Harry.” He was a parishioner of St. Lawrence’s. (His wife was buried in the church in 1502–3.)

Anno 1508. “ It. payed to Wiltm Hasylwod for a new haly water stok of laton, ij^s viij^d.”

(He seems to have married a second time.)

Anno 1510. “ It. rec. of Hasylwod is weyff for ringing of the grett bell xij^d.”

“ It. rec. of Hasylwod is weyff for hir husbond is grave & for couyng of þ^e same vij^s ij^d.”

He was buried in the church.

Anno 1515–6. “ Ordinaçō Hit is covenⁿtyd & aggreyd by the assent & consent of all the pysshe that what pson wyll have the greate bell of the gyfte of Harry Kelsall to be rong at the knyll or any other tment or obyte, all such psons to pay for the same bell so ryngyng at euy tyme xij^d to the churchwardens for the vse of the same church. And to euy pson that wyll haue hym

tylled to paye iiij^d to the seid wardens. And that the seid bell be rong or tylled for no pson but he pay as ys aboue exp^lssed.

“P’vyded all wey that the seid bell to be rong or tylled at all tymes for the obite or myndes of the seid Harry Kelsall to be kepte. And also at the obits & myndes to be kepte for M^r Thomas Justice vicar of the pissch church of Saynt laurence w^tout paying any money ther for, but to have the seid bell rong & tylled for the seid ij^o psons at all tymes free.”

Henry Kelsall was made a burgess after Michaelmas Day, 1475.

“Die ven^lis px post ff^m Scⁱ Mich Archi A^o. r.r. E. iiij^l xv. Eodem die venit Henr’ Kelssale & jur’ e’ com-burgens^s gild m^lcat^s & q^o ad ff^m qⁱ t^a p^rm elect’ stat. maiorat’. Et sol’ dⁱ ff^m. Dñe Abb’ vt V^s v³ v^s. Et p^r jant’lo iiij^s iiij^d. pleg. Will. Lynacr, Rob. Prow. (Corporation Minute Book.)

Elected to represent the town in Parliament, 1482 :—

“Anno E. (iiij), xxii ; Jolies Bakestur Maior ij. Die Marc crastiō p. ff^m Scⁱ E. R. et Confess’ A^o s^adict^s Maior & cōburgens^s Burgi p^ldict^s eliger’ Henr. Kelssale & Wiltm Erne comburgens’ pliamenti px futur’ v³ vj^o die Novēbr’ A^o &c.” (Corporation Minute Book.)

Another member of this family occurs in the church-wardens’ accounts.

Anno 1503-4. “It. rec. of Randall Kelsall for wast of terchis at p^o yer mynd of Harry Kelsall x^d.”
(A similar entry occurs the following year.)

Anno 1517. “For the grave of Rand. Kelsalls moder.”
vij^s ij^d. (No charge for the bell.)

Anno 19-20 Hen. VIII. (1528).

“It. for the Knell of Randall Kelsall n^t” (nihil).

“It. for tollyng at h^s moneth^s mynde n^t” (nihil).

The remission of the ringing fee in these cases, in accordance with the resolution of the vestry—and especially the responsibility of Randall Kelsall for the mortuary

arrangements of Henry Kelsall, would seem to indicate that Randall was a very near relative, if not the son, of Henry, although he is not once named in the will of the latter.

Some of the bells, including "Harry," appear to have been sold in the beginning of Edward VI.'s reign, but redeemed by the parishioners.

Anno 1550. "Paid & allowed to the churchmen (churchwardens) for the redemyng of bells by them sold, xl^s."

Among the "Dett^s owyng" in 1554 we have:—

"Item vppon Rob^t Tylbye & Wi^{thm} Lyppescombe for redemyng of the greate bell by them sold as apperith vppon ther accompts xxxiijs^s iiij^d." (These persons were the churchwardens in 1550.)

"Harry" survived until 1567, when he was recast for the first time by William Knight, of the Reading Foundry. The whole town and neighbourhood contributed towards the good work. Fifty-five of the parishioners of St. Mary's gave 41s. 8d. (money was then about twelve times its present value); seventeen of the inhabitants of St. Giles' subscribed 13s. 8d.; "The men of the Contrye," including the "Myller of Causham," sent in 27s. 2d.; a hundred and thirty-four of the parishioners gave 6l. 13s. 4d.; and the Bachelors of St. Lawrence 16s. 11d. One Martyn Woodnett lowered the old bell, and raised and re-hung the new one for 31s. 8d.

For this recasting William Knight received 7l. 6s. 8d.

The last recorded knell rung on the original bell given by Henry Kelsall was apparently for one of the priests of the old *régime*.

"The Gret bel:—

In p^mis of Thom^s Kenryck for a priests knell, xx^d."

"Graves—In p^mis of Thom^s Kenryck for y^e prestes grave, vij^s iiij^d."

In 1578 the tenor, with the fourth, or "Lady Bell," as it was called, inscribed, no doubt, with its "Ave Maria gratia plena," was recast by Joseph Carter, one of the parishioners. "Peace and good neighbourhood," an old bell motto, must then have been a reality; for we again find the parishioners of St. Maries giving "towards y^e casting of y^e gret bell,

xxiv^s vj^d." The following very singular contribution occurs at this time :—

" 1580. Rec. of M^r Gryffen for y^e penance of one Kent allotted to y^e gret bell by y^e offyciall, vij^s."

At this casting Kelsall was diminished in weight, and consequently in power.

" 1581. Rec. of Josephe Carter, belfounder, at seuerall tymes for y^e rest of ye mettall y^t was left out in casteyng y^e fourth bell and gret bell, vij^{li}."

In 1593, Joseph Carter, the bellfounder, was churchwarden. The following resolution was undoubtedly his suggestion :—

" Toling by the clapp^y). Whereas there was through the slothfulness off the Sextine in times past, a kind off toling y^e Bell by y^e clapper rope, y^t was now fforbidden and taken away: and that the bell should be toled as in times past, & not in anie such Idle sort.—J. Smith, vicar."

1594. " At this accompt also y^t was agreed that our gret Bell should be cast againe and not so much the Tune of the bell was cared for as to have y^t a lowd bell and hard ffar. And the churchwarden, Joseph Carter, consented and agreed to cast y^t before Midsummer ffollowing: And so he was chosen againe Churchwarden the second Time. These being p[']sent—Mr. Ffrancys More, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lydall, goodman Russell, the churchwardens, with others. — John Smithe, vicar."

" The gret Bell waied when he was first taken downe 34 cwt. 38^{li}."

" The same Bell hanged vp againe y^s increased in mettall to 36 cwt. 49^{li}."

" And forasmuch as y^t fell out that he was inforced by misfortune of a ffall in the first casting, to cast him twice againe. Therefore there y^s allowed in curtesie to the said Joseph, being or neighbour, above his bargin of increase, xl^s."

" So the somme of the whole is xv^{li} vij^s ij^d."

Anno 1618. " Itm. p^d to goodman Knight for casting of the 4 bell, 6*l*. 10*s*."

"Itm. p^d moor to him for j hundred & twenty three pound of metell put into her, v^{li} xij^s the hundred, 6*l.* 15*s.*"

Anno 1647-8. "It. p to Ellys Knight & ffrancis Knight for casting the greate bell as by their bill appeares, xxvi^{li} v^s vj^d."

"At a meeting of the parishioners of St. Lawrence, in Reading, 29th May, 1662.

"*Bells.*

"Agreed that the five Bells in the steeple be made into Eight tuneable Bells, and that the Churchwardens doe take care to see it done.

"Provided that noe taxe be layd on the parishe towards the charge of altering the said Bells & pvided that the Churchwardens doe bring & secure the said eight Bells in convenient tyme into the said steeple w^hout charge to the p^{is}he.

Present M^r THOMAS TUER, vicar.

D^{cor} FFRANCIS HUNGERFORD.

EDWARD DALBYE, Esq.

M^r EDWARD JOHNSON,

M^r NICHOLAS POTINGER,

GILES POCOCKE,

M^r HENRIE FFREWIN,

EDWARD KENT,

DAVID WEBB, | Churchwardens."

1663. "Of the pishioners & others w^{ch} was given towards the casting y^e bells, 62*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

"Item, p^d Henry Knight for casting the 5 Bells into eight, 44*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

"Item, p^d M^r Frewin for tinn put into the Bells, 8*l.* 13*s.*

1663-4. "To Thomas Knight for opening the greate bell, 1*s.* 6*d.*" (ringing her for the first time).

The great bell was unsatisfactory, so she had to be recast.

"To Henry Knight, for metall added to the great bell, 7*l.*

1665. "It. paid Henry Knight for 58lb. weight of mettall to put in the *two fore* bells, 2*l.* 18*s.*

1666-7. "Item p^d to Henry Knight for casting the *seaventh* Bell and other charges, 20*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

1703, 6th Sept. "Agreed at this meeting that the great

Bell (being broke) shalbe new cast at the charge of the parish, and the other bells amended.

M^r ABRAHAM CULVER, } Churchwardens."
FRANCIS BINFIELD, }

11th February, 1704. "Agreed that the 7th bell be taken downe and new cast, and Samuel Knight to doe it & be paid 18*l*. for the same by the churchwardens. Samuel Knight to be at all manner of charge in taking downe & hanging up the same."

In 1748 the whole ring was recast in the key of E^b, by Robert Catlin, and the two smallest bells added by subscription. Before the recent restoration of the bells in 1881-2 they were thus inscribed :—

1. "RICHARD COB . CH.WARDEN . R.C. 1748."
2. "BY ADDING TWO OUR NOTES WE'LL RAISE"
& SOUND OUR GOOD SUBSCRIBERS' PRAISE"
1748.
3. "ROBERT CATLIN FECIT. 1748."
4. "PROSPERITY TO ALL OUR BENEFACTORS. R.C.
1748."
5. "IMPRIMIS VENERARE DEUM MANDATA G_B (*sic*)
SERVA QUCERES (*sic*) NON ALIOS UNICUS IPSE
DEUS. R.C. 1748."
6. "THE REV. THOMAS SHUTE, D.D. VICAR 1748." —
R.C. FECIT."
7. "PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH. R.C. FECIT. 1748."
8. "Mr JOHN KIRK, Mr JOHN HARRIS CHURCHWARDENS.
THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT.
1803."
9. "RICHARD WESTBROOK & JAMES WALTER CHURCHWARDENS
THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT.
1793."
10. "JOHN RICHARDS, JOHN ROSS CHURCHWARDENS .
ROBERT CATLIN FECIT - 1748."

On the small bell, which is the representative of the old Saunce or Sanctus Bell,—

"THE REV JOHN GREEN VICAR, JACOB WALTER JOHN NIALE CHURCHWARDENS . THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT. 1793."

In the month of September, 1881, the author was kindly

permitted by the vicar and churchwardens to undertake the restoration of the bells, then in a very deplorable condition: they had not been *ring* for several years. The tenor was cracked through the canons, and the crown had been strengthened by an iron hoop round the haunch or shoulder. The best advice having been obtained, it was deemed prudent to recast her, and a liberal response having been made by the townsmen and others for this purpose, it was thought desirable to renew the sixth also—the worst bell in the ring. With these two was sent the seventh for tuning purposes; and this, when the stock was removed at the foundry, was found to be in precisely the same condition as the tenor, the fracture having been concealed by its beam. These three were recast, and the whole of the bearings, stocks, wheels, and other fittings renewed at a cost of nearly 350*l*.

The weights of the three old bells were—

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	
6th	9	0	24	} with their canons.
7th	10	3	14	
10th	23	0	0	

The eighth, also sent to Loughborough for the same purpose as the seventh, weighs 11 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 lbs.

The three new bells weigh—

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	
6th	10	0	0	} without canons.
7th	11	2	0	
10th	24	0	0	

The bells were recast on Tuesday afternoon, January 10, 1882, at the foundry of John Taylor and Co., Loughborough. The author hopes to be forgiven for inserting a quotation from a letter of his to the *Reading Mercury*, &c., descriptive of the scene:—

“I found the three old bells of St. Lawrence in the drying chamber or ‘oven’ broken into fragments, on some of which I recognized portions of the old inscriptions. In a short time they were wheeled near the mouth of the furnace, into which they were eventually thrown. The last I saw of our old tenor were some dullish-looking fragments gradually sinking into a seething mass of liquid metal, glowing with intense brilliancy. The opening was closed again with bricks and clay, and in about an hour or so everything was ready. The sight was very interesting.

A narrow channel led from the furnace-mouth to the moulds, and in this duct were placed iron floodgates or stops, by the regulation of which the metal was diverted into the mouths or funnels of the moulds beneath. The precise moment for tapping was one of silent anxiety. At this juncture, with Mr. Taylor's permission, I went near the furnace-mouth, and offered the well-known prayer: 'Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help,' &c. At its conclusion many of the visitors uttered a fervent 'Amen.' In an instant the boiling liquid gushed forth, and sped hurriedly down the previously heated channel to the first 'swallow hole,' and in a few seconds the new tenor for St. Lawrence's Church came into being in its subterraneous chamber. The first floodgate was then raised, and onward the bright stream rushed into the next mould, and so on successively until the whole were cast; and thus, within a very few minutes, was born a sisterhood of eight large bells; three for St. Lawrence's, Reading; three for Thurleston, Leicestershire; and two for Baldock, in Herts."

On Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1882, the new bells were dedicated, and the ring formally opened at 6.30 P.M., a special service having been held on the occasion. The moment the Benediction was concluded, the bells struck up a glorious peal, the flood of music from the grand old tower filling the town and neighbourhood. The tenor was rung by the author for its first time on Monday, Feb. 12, 1882, about three in the afternoon. Who may ring her for the last time God only knows; but, accidents set aside, she will no doubt hold her deserved position as one of the best bells in the county for centuries to come.

“**Ring**ing Annals.

ROYAL VISITS—VICTORIES—CIVIL WAR, TEMP.
CHARLES I., ETC.

Anno 1506. “It. payed for bred & ale to þ^e ryngers in
þ^e rogacion weke ij^d.”

Anno 1508. “It. payed for ij^o galons of ale for the
Ringers on Dedycaciō ij^d.”

“It. payed to the ryng^g’s on Holy Thursday of
co^ustom to ryng at pcession ij^d.”

"It. payed to the same Witm (Poo—sub-sexton) for rynging on Corp^s Xpi day at pcession.

"It. payed for vj^{li} & di Wayght of smale corde for the Sanct^s Bell, & for to toll to Ihu Masse, vj^d."

1509-10. "Itm. payed for x Rynggers at the partyng of the Kyng, & ffor drynke & to the sexton, ij^s ob^d."

1513-4. "It. payd for a galon of ale for the Ryngers at the gettyng of Turwyn, ij^d."

(This town was surrendered to the King of England on the 23rd of August. It was all burnt, save the palace and cathedral, on the 26th and a few following days.—*Vid.* Stowe's Chronicle, p. 493).

"It. payd for a galon of ale for the Ryngers at the deth of the Kyng of Scotts, ij^d." (At Flodden.)

("On the 9 of September King James, the fourth of that name, king of Scotts, was slain at Bramstone vpon Piperd Hill and his armie discomfited by the earle of Surrey lieutenant to Henry the 8 King of England."—*Stowe*, 495.)

1528. "It. to the quens auñer s^yuants, for that the bells wer not rong at her comyng in to the town, viij^d."

Anno 24-5 Hen. VIII. (1533-4). "It. for ryngyng at the birth of the princes *elizabeth* iiij^d." (This name in another hand, but coeval).

1553-4. "Paid to Ringers at the Kyng & Quenys cuñyng and goyng xx^d."

1560. "Itm. for Ryngyng the great Bell to the S^ymond, vi^d."

1568. "Itm. to the Rynggers at the Queen's coñyng in, xvi^d."

At the foot of the accounts from Michaelmas 1575, to Michaelmas 1576, we have:—

"Expenses about Ringers, the Quene being in Rhed-ing: In bred, drinke, money, and candells, to watche the Quenes seate wth the travise and Arras hanging in the Chaunsell, vj^s iij^d. (p. orig. 361.)

- 1576-7. "Paid for a verkin of beare at the Ringing for the Quene xxii^d."
- 1585-6. "Imprimis laid out more than was gathered at the ringing for y^e Quenes rainge (reign) viii^s j^d ob."
- 1587-8. "Paid to the Ringers aboue y^t we gathered on the Quenes daie, xij^d."
- 1591-2. "Paid for ringing at hir ma^{ties} coming xxij^d."
 "Payd for making cleane of the strete at hir ma^{ties} coming & for cariage xx^d."
1602. "It. paid for Ringing when the Queene was in towne v^s ix^d."
 "Itm. paid for flowers & Rushes for the church when the Queene was in towne xx^d."
 „ "Itm. paid for a cloth to hang before the pulpitt when the Queene was here ij^s vj^d."
 „ "Itm. paid for ringing at the cominge of the lord keep iiij^d."
1612. Goodman Greene & Ffraunces Blake Ch. wardens.
 „ "Payd more to the petti Sextone for Ringing a Crownation day and to (*two*) gallons and a halfe a beare out of my one seller, and had maney vill an slandrows words from this Receaver x^s."
1613. "Payed to them that hope (*helped*) ring when the quien rode by the towne ij^s."
 „ "Payed Venter when the quien cam first to the towne 3^s."
 „ "For bread and beare xvjd."
 „ "Moor to Prites two sonnes w^h hop ring ij^s."
 „ "Payed moor to Venter when shee came to the Abbye for Ring iijs vjd."
 „ "Payed for Ring the 5 of August xiiij^d."
- 1621-2. "Pd him for ringing the greate Bell at 4 & 8 halfe a ycare 2*l*. 6^s 8^d."
1633. "M^d that if the sexton of the pish ring aboue an houre and a half any funerall knell, the friends of the deceased shall pay vnto y^e church for every quarter of an houre aboue the time assigned 6^d."

Period of the Civil Wars.

Among the old papers now preserved in the new folio at p. 133, is an original bill of "Venter," the sexton, which may fitly find a place here. It is dated

"Palme Sundaye,

"Beinge the 26 of March 1643.

"When y ^e King cam to Twone first, for Rosmery & bays	o	o	8
"When his Ma ^{tie} came from Branfoord for Rosemery & bayes	o	o	8
"It. at Crismas for Rosemery & bayes	o	o	8
"It. for carrying of the plate forth out of the vestry & in	o	i	o
"To the clarke for removing the church trunke out of the vestry to the Doc ^{rs} house and recarrying it &c.			(sic)
"It. for carrying of the Church formes to the Abby when the King was there and back againe	o	2	o

In the accounts for the year ending May 30, 1644, we have the following:—(and as all these entries are very important, illustrating the period of the civil wars, I give them as they occur, being evidently written in chronological sequence) :—

"To Pharrowe for making vpp the seats when the parliam ^t Souldiers were here	o	3	4
"To Daniel Browne & goody Venter for makeing cleane the church then	o	2	o
"It. for ffrankincense to sweeten the church	o	i	o
"To him (Edward Venter) for Ringing the last of November when his M ^{ats} coming hither was expected	o	9	o
"It. p ^d for Holly & Ivy, Rosmery & Bayes att <i>Christmass</i>	o	i	10
"It. p ^d to the Ringers on the Kings Coronation day	o	9	o
"It. p ^d for mending the Seats in the Church w ^{ch} the souldiers had broken downe	o	i	6
"It. p ^d for Ewe for the church against <i>Easter</i> , and for sticking of itt upp	o	i	8

" It. p ^d for ringing when the King came last to Towne	0	10	0
" It. p ^d for Ringing a peale when the Earle of Essex came to Towne	0	2	6
(Observe the difference in these two last payments.)			

In the accounts ending 21st of April, 1645—

" It. p ^d to Val. ffallowe for mending seats in the church w ^{ch} the souldiers broke downe	0	3	2
" It. p ^d to Daniel Browne for making cleane the Church twice, & for pitch & frankincense	0	5	0
" It. p ^d to ffrancis Thackham for halfe a load of wood burnd in the Church by the Souldiers	0	6	6
" It. p ^d to Val Pharoah for mending Seats in the Church	0	13	9

In the accounts ending 27th of April, 1646—

" It. p ^d for 1 ^{li} of frankincense and of pitch to pfume the church	0	0	8
" It. p ^d to Daniel Browne for watching in the church when the soldiers were here, & making it cleane when they were gone	0	2	6
" It. p ^d to the Ringers for Ringing after several Victories.	1	0	6
" It. p ^d for 2 ^{li} of pitch & 2 ^{li} of frankincense used in the church	0	1	4
" It. p ^d to Da : Browne for watching & making cleane the church when the souldiers were last here	0	4	0

In the year beginning Whit Tuesday, 1647—

" To the Ringers when the Kinge came throu the towne	0	7	0
" Strewing aubes (herbs) and flowers to strowe the sitis in the Church win the ginarall was in the towne	0	0	10
" To the Ringars when the Jinerall war going a way	0	3	0

1699. " P^d to the Ringers on S. George's Day, 10^s 0^d.

1688. The sexton's wages were augmented from 7^l. to

20*l.* per annum, "on condition that he ring the bell at 5 of the clock (morning) and 9 (evening), in good order, and look after the chimes and clock as he ought to doe."

During the 15th century the bells were probably rung on the ground-floor. At the beginning of the 16th century there was a ringing loft on a level with the sill of the large west window in the tower.

Anno 1502. "Itm. payed to Wylm Cone for setting on of a borde vndⁿ the loft for þ^e ring^s's, &c. ix^d."

Numerous initials, with dates from 1599, may still be seen on the piers and arches above the level of the old gallery floor.

In the present ringing chamber, which is one of the finest in the county, is an early record of change ringing painted on a board. The inscription is as follows:—

July y^e 8th, 1734,
The whole Peal of
Grandsire Triples
5,040 Changes was rung in
three hours & ten minutes
by them whose names are
here mentioned.
Henry Samples, Treble.
Gyles Newbury, Second.
Joseph Philip, Third.
Robert Booth, Fourth.
Thomas Shurfield, Fifth.
Henry Peaty (Bob Caller), Sixth.
John Wells, Seventh.
William Ford }
Abram Bishop } Tenor.

"This board was restored at the cost of Mr. Alf. Thomas, Deputy Captain, 1880."

The Clock.

The earliest reference to a clock at St. Lawrence's is in the Roll of 1433 :—

“Et in resol. Johi Tylere p custodia orologii et illuminaciōe luñin, vij^s.”

“Et in stipendio factoris orologii, ij^s.”

Tyler occurs as clock keeper until 1441.

The next entry is very interesting, showing the elaborate nature of the mechanism :—

Anno 1498-9. “It. payed for the setting of Jak (Jack) with the hangyng of his bell & mendyng his hond, iiij^d.”

Jack's automatic character must have afforded much amusement to the children of those days, and no doubt equal gratification to their seniors. The mechanism may have exhibited other ingenious attractions besides little Jack with his hammer. The clock was somewhere in the church, and visible, no doubt, to the whole congregation.

Anno 1498-9. “Itm. payed for makyng fast of the cloke howse w^t ij^o pec^s of tymb'r set in to the walls w^t a mason, viij^d.”

“Itm. payed to Strawford for setting of a pece of tymb'r at y^e klok hamⁿ w^t nayles, iij^d ob.

“Itm. payed for wyer to the same klok, xi^d ob.

“Itm. payd for led to make the payce of the klok, v^s vj^d.”

“Itm. payed for castyng the payce iiij^d.”

Anno 1510-11. “It. rec^d of Wiltm Veld for a scate for hymself vnder the clock hows iiij^d.”

In 1520 this curious old clock seems to have given way to a successor :

“It. paid to the clockmaker for a new klok in pte of payment of v^{li},—xl^s.”

Anno 1521. “In p. mis paid to the klokemakar in pte paymēt of vj^{li} x^s ffor the new cloke & the dyall, iiij^{li}.”

There is a discrepancy in these two entries : perhaps the *dial* was an extra. This clock seems to have been placed in the tower, as will appear from the following entry :—

Anno 1521-2. "It. payd for glayssyng the stepoll wyndow
ou the dyall w^t p^t of old glas and p^{te} new
vij^s vj."

1522-3. "Payd to Garrett for makȳg the cloke xxx^s viij^d."

In 1560 a new dial was erected at a cost of 46s. 8d.

Anno 1586-7. "Paid to H. Osmund for mending y^e
clocke broken w^t the fall of y^e gret bell *clapp*
ij^s vi^d."

Anno 1587. The dial was repaired, gilt, &c., at a cost
of 3*l*. 13s. 8d.

Anno 1596. "Ffor timber and bords for a new clock
howse x^s j^d."

By an Indenture, dated the 15th November, 1673, William Young of the city of Oxford, Locksmith, engaged with George Hatton and Samuel Watlington, Churchwardens of St. Lawrence's, for the sum of 20s. in hand paid at the ensealing of the deed, and for the further sum of 29*l*. "to make, work, sett upp, and finish, &c., a ffirmе, good, substantiall and Tuncable sett of Chymes (in Peale) to two Tunes, viz. : upon the Tune of the cxlvijth Psalme, and the Teunc of the cxijth Psalme, or any other Two Tunes of which the Churchwardens, &c., shall best approve, the same chymes to strike uppon all the eight bells in the tower, &c., of equall & good notes." And he the said William Young also covenanted to make, &c., "a ffirmе good and substantiall Quarterne clock, to strike on the aforesaid eight bells in an orderly manner as a quarterne clock ought to doe." The said William Young covenanted moreover "to putt and sett the clocke now standing in the Tower in good and sufficient order as the same ought to be. The said sum of 29*l*. to be paid as soone as the said chymes Quarterne clock, and other clock shall be truly and effectually made, sett upp, finished, perfected, and amended as aforesaid."

William Young's bond was returned to him on the 13th April, 1680, when the clock was finally completed.

In the year 1881, the old clock which had collapsed several years before, was removed to afford increased accommodation in the ringing chamber. It was considered

that from the proximity of the tower to the municipal clock, it was undesirable to provide another, since it would only entail an annual expenditure, which the state of the church funds would hardly justify.

Inventories.

The earliest book of church accounts contains four inventories :—

The first of 1503 is defective ; a part of the inventory of the silver being missing, as well as the altar hangings. The whole has been erased by the compiler of the next inventory of 1517, except the list of "Stained Cloths," which is made to do duty for the latter inventory, where the heading appears, but without the items. The author, however, has appended them.

The second inventory of 1517 is the most minute in detail, and for this reason is here given *in extenso*. It is an invaluable repertory of mediæval ecclesiastical furniture, and will be most interesting to every student of ancient art. The church must have ied with some of our smaller cathedrals in the magnificence of her appointments.

The inventory of 1523 is less interesting : it omits the names of many of the donors specified in the earlier ones.

These three have been most carefully collated. The asterisk (*) prefixed indicates that the article appears in the previous inventory of 1503, and the "o" in the subsequent catalogue of 1523 : the numerals refer to the notes immediately following the inventory, in which every variation is noted.

The fourth is the inventory of the goods assigned to the separate altars, two leaves of which only remain. It was compiled at the same time as the third inventory, as appears from an item in the expenditure of 1523-4 :—

"It. for makeyng thynventorye of all the church goods,
& of all the Implemēt's belongyng to all the
awls ij^s iij^d."

The whole of this has been distributed under the account of the several altars, viz. :—"Oū Ladyes Awl," "Trynyte Awl," "Saynte Thom's Awl," "Saynt John's Awl," & "the Sepulchre Awl."

“Innbentorpe of all and sing'lr goodes of the church of Saynt Laurence in Redyng, renewed & made in the tyme of John Barfote & John Hansbye p'turators of the seid church, the yere of our Lord God a M^cCCC^{xv}ij & the ixth yere of the regne of kynge Henry the viijth.”

Plate.

- * ° “In p'mis a Crosse of Sylu & gilt w^t mary & John weying lxxix ounc^s & a q^rd of the gifte of Mast Nichus More late vicar.
- * ° “It. a senso^r of Sylu pcell gilt w^tout a pan weying xxx vnc^s iij q^rd of the gift of—
- * ° “It. a nother Senso^r of Silu pcell gilt w^t an Iron pan in hym weying xxx vnc^s iij q^rd of the gift of—
- ° “It. a Shipp of Silu weying ix vnc^s di of the gifte of—
- ° “It. a no^r shipp of Silu weying v vnc^s of the gifte of Mays^r Cletche.
- ° “It. ij^o Canstick^s of Silu weying xl vnc^s di of the gifte of Richard Cleche.
- ° “It. ij^o bokes a gospello^r (lxxix vnc^s) & a pistello^r (lxv vnc^s) the one side coued w^t Silu pcell gilt w^t Imag^s vppon the same & the other side w^t boces of silu, weying yn all cxxxiiij vnc^s of the gifte of M^r Richard Smyth yema^r of the robes w^t our souayne lord the kyng.
- ° “It. ij^o basons of silu weying xlvij vnc^s & di of the gifte of M^r Smythe.
- * ° “It. a pix of silu & gilt w^t a Silu pyn wayng xvj vnc^s iij q^rd hangyng yn the Chyrch.
- * ° “It. a monstre of silu & gilt weying xxiiij vnc^s iij q^rd for the sac^ment of the gift of—
- ° “It. a Crismatorye of sylu pcell gilt weying xxij q^rd & di of the gifte—
- ° “It. a pax of silu pcell gilt weing vj onc^s of the gifte of—
- ° “It. ij^o Cruetts of silu weing vj vnc^s di of the gifte of—
- ° “It. a bell of silu weing viij vnc^s of the gift of— (1.)
- ° “It. a chalice of silu & gilt w^t a Crucifix on the fote ennamellid & the trynite ennamellyd on the patent

- weyng xxv vnc^s. (Opposite this, in the margin, "M^r Berd hath hym.")
- * ° "It. a nother chalice of siluⁿ & gilt w^t a Crucifix graven in the fote & an hand on the patent weyng xvij vnc^s.
 - * ° "It. a nother chalice of siluⁿ & gilt w^t a Crucifix ennamellyd on the fote & an hond on the patent weyng xv onc^s iij q^{ar}ⁿ. ("Stolen," in the margin, written later than 1523.)
 - * ° "It. a nother chalice of siluⁿ & gilt w^t a Crucifix ennamellid on the fote & p^e trynite enamellyd on the patent weyng xvij vnc^s di. (2.)
 - ° "It. a nother chalice of siluⁿ pcell gilt w^t a Crucifix on the fote & a vⁿacle (5) on the patent weyng xiiij vnc^s q^{ar}ⁿ.
 - ° "It. a nother chalice of siluⁿ pcell gilt w^t a Crucifix on the fote & a vⁿacle gilt on the patent weyng xiiij vnc^s di.
 - ° "It. a nother chalice of siluⁿ pcell gylt weyng xvij vnc^s di of the gyft of Will^m Stamford. (4.)"

Reliques.

- ° "It. a crosse of siluⁿ & gilt w^t p^{te} of the Holy Crosse therin weyng vj vnc^s q^{ar}ⁿ.
- ° "It. a gredyron of siluⁿ & gilt w^t a bone of Saynt Laurence therin weyng iij q^{ar}ⁿ of an vnc of the gifte of Thom^{as} Lynde squyer.
- ° "It. a rownde box of Cop & gilt w^t diuce reliques therin.
- ° "It. a table closed w^t reliques.
- ° "It. iij knoppis of Cop & gilt."

Books.

- * ° "In pⁱmis an antipher w^t ffull legend of the gifte of S^r John Andrewe sū tyme vicar ther, the ij^{de} lefe begynnyng (*Patri et filio*).
- * ° "It. a nother Antiphoner w^t full legend of the gifte of S^r John Serne sū tyme vicar ther the ij^{de} lefe begynnyng (*sacerdos ponat*).
- ° "It. a nother Antiphoner the ij^{de} lefe (*tuū invocatu est*).

- * ° " It. a nother Antiphoner the ij^{de} lefe (*temz corū te*).
- ° " It. a nother Antiphoner the ij^{de} lefe (*cripe te liberante*).
- * ° " It. a portos not Sar' (*Sarum*) the ij^{de} lefe (*scripta sunt*).
- * ° " It. a new legend the ij^{de} lefe (*lectuli lignēu.*) (5.) (6.)
- * ° " It. a queyre the ij^{de} lefe begynnyng (*pastor bone*).
- * " It. a legend S^cō^r chayned by fore the vicars stall the ij^{de} lefe begynnyng (*vi de S^cā Kalⁱina*).
- * ° " It. a Martiloge the ij^{de} lefe af^r the Kalendre (*dio mari*).
- * ° " It. an ordinall the ij^{de} lefe af^r the Kalendre (*pore pasche*).
- * ° " It. a Masse boke the ij^{de} lefe af^r the Kalendre (*multitudinē as^pges*).
- * " It. a nother masse boke noted (7.) ij^{de} lefe af^r p^e Kalendre (*hec sacra*).
- * ° " It. a nother masse boke the ij^{de} lefe af^r the Kalendre (*asperges*).
- * ° " It. a nother masse boke the ij^{de} lefe af^r the Kalendre (*more sanctifices*).
- * ° " It. a litel masse boke notid the ij^{de} lefe af^r p^e Kalendre (*potes expugnans*).
- * ° " It. a nother masse boke notid the ij^{de} lefe af^r p^e Kalendre (*fratres qⁱcunqz*).
- * ° " It. a nother masse boke not Sar' noted the ij^{de} lefe (*Dñica Prima*).
- * ° " It. a grayle w^t ij claspes of silū the ij^{de} lefe (*de S^ca Maria*).
- * ° " It. a nother grayle the ij^{de} lefe (*regimine chori*).
- * ° " It. a nother grayle the ij^{de} lefe (*populus Syon*).
- * ° " It. a nother grayle the ij^{de} lefe (*Dñica prima adventus*).
- * ° " It. a nother grayle the ij^{de} lefe (*non solū iacuit*).
- ° " It. a nother grayle the ij^{de} lefe (*humana vire*). (8.) (9.)
- * ° " It. a manuell the ij^e lefe (*clericos as^pgat*).
- * ° " It. a nother manuell the ij^{de} lefe (*testatem inimici*). (10.)
- * ° " It. a nother manuell the ij^{de} lefe (. . . *culorum Amen*).
- ° " It. a Sawter & a Colett boke the ij^{de} lefe (*quoniam non est*). (8.)
- ° " It. a nother Sawter the ij^{de} lefe (*qui confidunt in eo*). (8.)
- ° " It. ij^o quaires in prent of the visita^on of our lady the ij^{de} lefe begynnyng (*decacordo*). (8.)

- ° " It. a queire of the fest of Cristm^{as}. (8.)'
- ° " It. a pcessionall the ij^{de} lefe (*Maria ecce*). (8.)
- ° " It. a nother pcess' writen of the gifte of Richard Turner the ij^{de} lefe (*zros es*). (11.)
- ° " It. a pcess' of the gifte of Ric' Barnys the ij^{de} lefe. (11.)
- * ° " It. a pcess' the ij^{de} lefe (*Sp' Sancti*).
- " It. a new legend prynted the ij^{de} leffe (*qui estentibz*) of the gyft of John Barefote. (11.)
- " It. a grale pryntyd of the gyft of Thom^{as} Whyt (*in 2^o fo. cōcede quis*). (11.)
- ° ° " It. a manuell of the gyft of S^r John Rychmond (*in 2^o fo. c^{um} in frōte*). (11.)

Bokes of Pricksong.

- ° " In pⁱmis a grete boce of vellem bourded for masses of the gifte of Wiltm Stannford.
- ° " It. a nother boke bourded of paper w^t masses & antempins (? *antiphons*).
- ° " It. an old boke bourded w^t antempins.
- ° ° " It. a noyⁿ of vellame bordyd w^t antems & exultavits. (Note 53.)

Copes.

- ° " In pⁱmis a Cope of panys of cloth of gold, of crymson velvet & blew velwett of the gifte of M^r Thom^{as} Justice vicar. (12.)
- ° " It. ij Copes of tissue (13) red and grene of the gifte of the pissh.
- * ° " It. a Cope of Blew velwett w^t floures imbrowdred of the gifte of Thom^{as} Clarke, Hosier. (14). (C. W. in 1443).
- ° " It. a Cope of crymson velwett w^t orphrays imbrowdred & angels floures imbrowdred of the gifte of M^r Thom^{as} Justice vicar.
- ° " It. a Cope of White Damaske tissue w^t orfrey of crymysyn tissue of the gifte of Cristian Wilcox.
- ° " It. a Cope of White Damask tissue w^t orfrey of Bawdekyn & rosis of gold of the gifte of Raphe White of Okyngh^m.
- ° " It. ij Copis of red velwett w^t orfrey of grene velwett sett w^t floures of the gifte of John Euard, ffuller.

- * ° "It. a Cope of cloth of bawdekyn (15) w^t birdis & floures of gold of the gifte of John Kent.
- "It. a Cope of blake velwett w^t qarterys of the gifte of M^r Smyth (subsequently erased).
- ° "It. a Cope paned w^t blew velwett & black & orfrey of *grene saten a brydges of the gift of the x brethern embrod^dlyd w^t the name of Ihc.* (The words in italics erased, and the remainder in another hand.)
- ° "It. a Cope paned w^t black velwett & plonkett saten w^t orfrey of grene saten a brydges of the gifte of
- ° "It. a Cope of blake saten & blonket sⁿ senet paned w^t orfrey of grene saten of brydges.
- ° "It. ij^o Copis of white saten a brydg^s the orfrey Crymson Saten sett w^t floures of the gifte of Richard Turner & Richard Barnys.
- ° "It. ij^o Copes of satten russet & crane the orfrey red damaske & satten of the gifte of Maist^r Smyth.
- ° "It. ij^o Copes of saten a bryges white & grene paned w^t orfrey of tawney saten of the gifte of M^r Smyth.
- * ° "It. a Cope of Crymson Bawdekyn, the orfray of yelow saten. (16.)
- * ° "It. a Cope red Cloth of Bawdekyn of the gifte of Joh^anne Barbo^r.
- * ° "It. a Cope of Black worsted w^t branchis & birds of red.
- * ° "It. a Cope of white Silke w^t this tre **ft** Crownyd.
- * ° "It. a Cope of Blew cloth of Bawdekyn.
- * ° "It. a Cope of red Silk w^t signes of the Son of the gifte of Dan Robt Redyng Monke.
- * ° "It. a Cope of black worsted for obitts.

Vestemēts.

- ° "In pⁱmis A sewte of vestements of Crymson Tissue w^t grene orfrey of tyssew of the gifte of Witlm Wattis.
- "It. a Sewte of blew velwett w^t floures imbrowdred of the gifte of Thom^as Clark, Hosyer.
- ° "It. a Sewte of white damaske the orfrey of Bawdekyn w^t roses of gold of the gifte of Water Barton.

- * ° "It. a Sewte of red Cloth of bawdekyn w^t birds & floures of gold of the gifte of John Kent.
- ° "It. a Sewte of Red Cloth of Bawdekyn w^t whyt ross^s of the gifte of Joh^anne Barbo^r.
- ° "It. a Sewte of Black Velwett w^t garters of the gifte of M^r Smyth (in a later hand in the margin, "delyud to Jhc awt.") (17.)
- ° "It. a Sewte of Black worsted w^t braunches & birds of red.
- * "It. a Chesible suspended w^t ij^o tunycles of ray silk (erased).
- * ° "It. a Chesible w^t a rest & all thappell of blew silk the orfrey red velwett w^t Imag^s & Crownes of gold. (In margin—"Delyud to Seynt Thomas Awter.")
- * ° "It. a Chesible w^t all thappell of blew silk & roses of gold the orfray of the Salutaçõn of our lady.
- * ° "It. a Chesible of blew silk w^t popyngeays of gold w^t the appells ("suspended" in margin.) (18.)
- * ° "It. a Chesible of Crymson Silk w^t grypes w^t narrow Crosse of white." (In margin—"Delyud to Seynt Thomas Awter.") (19.)
- * ° "It. a Chesible w^t all thappell of grene & black silk myxt w^t gold braunches suspendid the orfrey red velwett w^t iij^t in gold of the gifte of Cristian Mereh^am. ("Suspendyd.")
- * ° "It. a Chesible w^t thappell of red silk suspend w^t tres of gold **¶** & **¶** of the gifte of John Serne. ("Suspendyd" in margin.)
- * ° "It. a white Chesible w^t a red Crosse & all appell for lent.
- ° "It. a Red Chesible w^t narrow Crosse (20) & all appell for good ffriday. (21.)
- ° "It. a Chesible of grene bourd Alisaunder w^t thappell the orfrey of Crymson silk (22) of the gifte of John Ffrank ("to Seynt Thomas Autre.") (23.)
- * ° "It. a Chesible of Cloth of bawdekyn the orfrey of cloth of bawdekyn w^t thappell of the gifte of John Derby Alderman of London. (24.)
- * ° "It. a Chesible of grene Damaske the orfray red Silk w^t an Image of Saynt Laurence of the gifte of Margaret Parker (25) of faryngton.
- * ° "It. a Chesible of Whit Damaske w^t braunches of gold the orfrey blew velwett w^t thappell of the gifte of John Thorne Abbott of Redyng.

- " It. iij^o vestments (26) w^t thappell^s of whit saten a brydg^s w^t orfrey of grene saten of the gifte of M^r Smyth. (In a later hand "delyv^yyd to iij low autres.")
- ° " It. a sewte off Russett Tynsyn w^t orffreys off blewe Tynsyn.
- ° " It. a sewte of purpyll velwett In brodryde w^t Antony Crossys & bellys.
- ° " It. a Cotte (*coat*) ffor Marmawdlyn* of clothe of gold (*erased*). (*These three last entries in a later hand.*)
- ° " It. a crosse for a chysybyle of old redeveluct enbrod^yyd w^t \mathfrak{A} h^t & stars of Cowrs golde.
- (27.)
- " It. an aw^y cloth of crymsyn veluet & whyt damaske enbrod^yyd w^t flo^rs of Venes gold. (The two last entries in a smaller and neater hand.)"

Awter Clothes.

- ° " In pⁱmis an Awter Cloth of panes of cloth of gold & velwett imbrowdred w^t Arch^angells & floures of the gifte of—
- " It. ij Aw^y Clothes of tissue red & grene w^t a cou^y for the halpase of the same & ij^o Curteyns of Sarsenett red & grene of the gifte of John Pownsar (*erased*).
- " It. ij^o Awter Clothes of white Damaske w^t grene floures w^t ij^o Curteyns of white & grene sarsenett of the pissh gifte (*erased*).
- ° " It. ij^o Awter Clothes of velvett blew & blak of the gifte of Mast^r Smyth.
- " It. an Awter Cloth of saten blew & yellow paned w^t ij^o Curteyns crymson blew & yellow paned of the gifte of M^r Smythe (*erased*).
- ° " It. an Awter Cloth of black velwett & bawdekyn paned w^t an Image of Saynt Laurence of the gifte of M^r Smythe.
- ° " It. an awter cloth of sarsenet orange colo^r & blew w^t curteyns of the same of the gifte of M^r Smyth.
- ° " It. an aw^y cloth of grene tyssew w^t ij C^teyns of whyt & gren s'ssenet.
- ° " It. an awter cloth of Damaske blew & red w^t garters.
- ° " It. an awter cloth of blew Sarsenet w^t a frontell of saten a brydg^s blew & red. (*In the margin, "Seynt John's aut^y."*)

* St. Mary Magdalene.

- ° " It. an awter cloth of black velwett & bawdekyn w^t an Image of Saynt Edua^d (28) and for the nether pte of the same an Awter cloth of Sarsenett orange colo^r & blew paned w^t curteyns of the same of the gifte of M^r Smyth.
- ° " It. an Awter Cloth of blew & Rede Saten w^t an Image of Saynt John & Curteyns of blew taffeta to the same.
- ° " It. ij^o Aw^t Clothes of Crane colo^r velwett & whit Damaske panyd w^t floures imbrowdred & ij^o Curtens of whit & crane colo^r silk of the gift of for Saynt John Aw^t.
- ° " It. ij^o Aw^t clothes w^t thappell of the same for o^r Lady aw^t.
- ° " It. ij^o Aw^t clothes of blew saten a brydg^s imbrowdred w^t floures w^t an Image of Saynt Clement for o^r Lady Aw^t & ij^o Curteyns of blew taffeta of the gifte of John Turner. (29.)
- ° " It. an aw^t cloth of Crymson & tawney velwett ymbrowdred w^t floures of gold & for the nether pte of the same Crymson saten & cloth of bawdekyn for the Sepulcr Awter (*margin*—"at Sepulcr aut").
- ° " It. ij aw^t cloths w^t red cross^s for lent w^t C^rteyns to the same.

Quysshons.

- ° " In pⁱmis a quysshon the one side cloth of gold & the o^p^r syde crane colo^r saten of the gifte of M^r Smyth.

Corpas Cases.

- ° " It. a quysshon the one side blak velwett & the other sy^d ray Silk.
- ° " It. a quysshon the one side plonkett saten a brydges the other syde of Chalkyd fustian.
- ° " It. a smale quysshon the one side velwett & the other side red saten.
- ° " It. a nother the one side velwett & the other side tawney saten.
- ° " It. ij pillows, the one side of them of cloth of gold & silu & the other side grene Saten a brydg^s.
- ° " It. ij pillows of blew velwett tissew—(*added in another hand*—"the other syde gren brydg^s saten").

- ° "It. ij corporas casses of cloth of gold pirlyd w^t tres of
R & S uppon the same imbrowdred w^t iiij^{or} knoppis
of silu & corporas to the same.
- ° "It. iiij pillows of russett ray for weddyngs. (30.)
- ° "It. iiij pillows of blew silk. (31.)
- * "It. a corporas case of tissew (*added*—"d'd to sent
Thomas awt").
- ° "It. a nother of red silk w^t lyons of gold. (32.)
- * "It. a nother of *blew silk & whit w^t bests of gold.*
(33.) (The words in italics erased, and appended is
—"p^rpoll the grownd w^t flo^{rs} of Russet.")
- * ° "It. a nother w^t the Salitacon of o^r Lady.
- * ° "It. a nother of red silk w^t branches of gold w^t red
birds a bout.
- * ° "It. a nother of whit silk w^t a red Crosse of Silk.
- * ° "It. a nother of cloth of bawdekyn w^t ij^o lyons. (34.)
- * ° "It. a nother of red silk the one sid, & bourd Alis-
aunder the other side. (35.)
- ° "It. a nother of blew cheverns of gold with the bake
syde Russet satten." (Probably the arms of the
donor 'a3 . . . chevrons or.') (36.)

Ornaments.

- ° "It. a sepulcre Cloth of right Crymson Satten im-
browdered w^t Imagerye w^t a frontaill of panys
conteyning in length iiij yards of the gifte of M^r
Richard Smyth w^t ij^o clothes of lawnde for the
sepulcre.
- ° "It. a canape of tissue for the Sacrament & a lawnde
w^t iiij botons wrought w^t gold & tassells of gold for
the pix.
- ° "It. a Canapye of Crymson velwett imbrowdred w^t
gold floures & the Holy lombe in the mydle of the
pcuryng of M^r Smyth & the wifes.
- ° "It. a cloth (37) of ray Silk to bere the crismatory
at Est^r. (38.)

Palls.

- ° "It. a pall of Black velwett w^t garters of the gifte of
M^r Smythe.
- ° "It. a pall of blew velwett imbrowdred w^t floures of
gold of the gifte of Thomas Clarke hosier.

- ° " It. a pall of bourd Alisaunder. (39.) (40.)
- * " It. a pall of whit Silke lyned w^t linnen cloth for weddings. (41.)
- * ° " It. a pall of bord Alisaunder lyned w^t red boke-ram. (42.)
- ° " It. a Cloth of gotis to ley in the weddyng cheyre. (43.) (44.) (45.)

Banners.

- ° " It. a banner for the Crosse of red Sarsenet w^t Imag^s of the trynnye & of o^r lady.
 - ° " It. a nother for the crosse of grene silk.
 - ° " It. v baners of silk w^t the Armys of Englund. (46.)
 - ° " It. a baner of whit silk w^t a Crosse of red. (47.)
 - ° " It. a strem^y of silk.
 - ° " It. a strem^y of linnen.
 - ° " It. a strem^y of linnen.
 - ° " It. a dext cloth of Crymson Bawdekyn (erased).
 - ° " It. ij^o dext Clothes of Dornex.
 - ° " It. a knop of gold w^t tassells of blew sylke.
 - ° " It. a purse of crymysin cloth of gold pyrled for the osts. (48.) (49.)
 - ° " It. ij great stand^ys w^t ij small kandylstyks of laten.
 - ° " It. ij sensars of latten.
 - ° " It. ij cross^s of cop & gylt w^t ij staves longeyng to the same.
 - ° " It. a crosse foot of coop and gylt.
 - ° " It. ij pax^s of coop.
 - ° " It. a fyer pan of yron.
 - ° " It. a crysmatory of coop & gylt.
- (The last eight items have been appended to the original.)

Awter Clothes of Linnen.

- ° " It. anAwter cloth of Diap in length v yerds & in brede a yerd & di.
- ° " It. an awter cloth of diap in length iiij yerds iiij q^{ar}t^s & in brede a yerd & di.
- ° " It. an awter cloth of diap in length iiij yerds & di & in brede a yerd and di.
- ° " It. an old awter cloth of Diap in length iiij yerds & in brede a yerd.

- ° " It. an old awter cloth of diap in length ij yerd^s & di
& in brede a yerd.
- ° " It. an Awl^l cloth of Canvas in length iij yerds & in
brede a yerd.
- ° " It. an old awl^l cloth playne in length iij yerds & in
brede a yerd.
- ° " It. an old awl^l cloth of diap in length iij yerds & in
brede a yerd.
- ° " It. ij^o old awl^l clothes of diap in length a pece ij
yerds & di & in brede a yerd.
- ° " It. an old awl^l cloth of diap in length ij yerds & in
brede a yerd.
- ° " It. a diap awl^l cloth in length iij yerds q^ar^l & in
brede a yerd q^ar^l.
- ° " It. an awl^l cloth of fyne Holond of iij yerds in length
& a yerd in brede.
- ° " It. a nother of the same cloth of a yerde iij q^ar^l long
& a yerd brede.
- ° " It. an awl^l cloth of Holond new in length v yerds &
in brede a yerd.
- ° " It. a nother of the same cloth in length iij yerds q^ar^l
& in brede a yerd.
- ° " It. an awl^l playne in length ij yerds & a q^ar^l & in
brede a yerd.
- ° " It. a nother of playne in length iij yerds & in brede
a yerd di q^ar^l.
- ° " It. a nother of playne in length iij yerds & in brede
a yerd.
- ° " It. a nother of Holond in length iij yerds & in brede
a yerd scante.
- ° " It. a nother of Holond in length ij yerds & di & in
brede a yerd. (50.)

Tewells.

- ° " It. a Towell of fyne Diap in length xj yerds & in
brede iij q^ar^l m^lkyd w^t ~~an~~.
- ° " It. a nother of diap in length ix yerds & in brede
q^ar^l & di q^ar^l m^lkyd w^t ~~R~~.
- ° " It. a nother of Diap in length ix yerds iij q^ar^l & in
brede di yerd & di q^ar^l w^tout mark.
- ° " It. a nother of diap in length ix yerds iij q^ar^l & in
brede di yerd m^lkyd w^t ~~D~~.

- ° " It. a nother of Diap in length iij yerds iij q^ar^l m^lkyd w^t a gredyron.
- ° " It. a nother of Diap old iiij yerds in di length & in brede di yerd & di q^ar^l m^lkyd w^t **¶**. (51.)
- ° " It. a nother of playne in length xij yerds & in brede di yerd m^lkyd w^t **¶**. (52.)

Stayned Cloths.

(The items are not supplied by this inventory, but are taken from that of 1503, the whole of which has been erased except the following particulars) :—

- " Also ij staynyd clothis w^t ryddels to þ^e same & a coulyng for the halpace on the hy awl^l stayned w^t red damaske warke & an ymage of Seynt Laurence in the mydd^s.
- " It. a cloth staynd w^t þ^e byrth of o^r Lorde for þ^e fonte and a noþ^r cloþ for þ^e same of lynn^y w^t panys white & blew.
- " It. an au^l cloþ^e staynyd w^t an ymage of o^r lady of Pyte & ij^o angels and a noþ^r w^t þ^e sepulcre & ij angells for þ^e hy awl^l in lent.
- " It. an au^l cloþ^e of ray silk for the neþ^r parte of the hy awter w^t a frontell of styrrs of gold.
- " It. a noþ^r awl^l cloþ^e staynyd w^t an ymage of o^r lady onely.
- " It. a noþ^r au^l cloþ^e stayned w^t o^r lady Seynt Gregory Pyte & Seynt Anne.
- " It. a noþ^r awl^l cloth of þ^e saluta^on & of þ^e byrþ^e of o^r lorde.
- " It. a cov^llyzt of blak & grene w^t **¶** & rosys white & red of the gyft of Alyce Adene.
- " It. an awl^l cloth stayned of thassūpcion of o^r lady seynt Anne & seynt Margaret."

Notes to the Preceding Inventory.

- (1.) The original Inventory of 1523 ends here, but the following is appended in a later hand :—
- " It. a stāding cup of silu & gilt wth a cou of the gift of Mastres hide" " xvj." (? oz.)

"It. a pomandⁿ) of siluⁿ & gilt of the gifte of Mastres White." "ix."

"It. a sensure of siluⁿ & pcell gilt of the gifte of Mastres Barton."

"It. xvij silver aglotts gilt for the sepulcre."

(2.) "Stolen" is written opposite this in the inventory of 1523 but in a much later hand. (c. 1547.)

(3.) "Vernacle." An engraving of the head of Jesus: so called from the "*vera icon*," or true portrait of Jesus, on the napkin of *St. Veronica* preserved at St. Peter's, Rome.

And I salle make myne abowe debotly to Criste

And to the haly vernacle vertuous and noble.

(Morte Arthur, MS. Lincoln, f. 56.)

(4.) In the Inv. 1523 is appended—

"It. a chalice of the gifte of Mastres Cambie siluⁿ & pcell gilt weyng xij vnc^s & j q^alⁿ."

(5.) The Inv. of 1503 has inserted here—

"It. ij quayers of the Visitaçõn of o^r lady the ij^o lefe of þ^t one begynnyng (*Elizabeth humili celi gl'ia*).

(6.) The Inv. of 1523 here inserts—

"It a new legend prynted in the secundo leff (quicstentibz).

(7.) Inv. of 1503 inserts here—"in which ben red þ^e epystyls."

(8.) This item inserted in the margin of the 1503 Inv.

(9.) Following this entry the Inv. of 1523 has:—

"It. a new grayle in print in the seconde leff (concede quīs)."

(10.) The list of service books in the Inv. of 1503 ends here.

(11.) These entries are appended in another hand to the Inv. of 1517, so they must have been added between this date and 1523.

(12.) The Inv. of 1523, at the head of the list of Copes, has in a later hand "It. a cope of cloth of gold of the gift of M^r Ths Justice." He died in 1547. See *Mr. Justice's Altar*.

(13.) In Inv. 1523—"ij Copes."

(14.) Inv. 1503 adds—"and Elizabeth his wife."

(15.) Inv. 1503 terms it "a rede cope of cloth of gold,"

which must be regarded as the interpretation of the term "Bawdekyn" used in 1517.

- (16.) There were two of these in 1503 for the "rectores chory"—*i.e.*, *chori*.

In a copy of the Salisbury Processional in York Minster Library, in the particulars of the ceremonies at the Font on the morning of Easter Day, the positions of the "Rectores principales" and the "Rectores secundarii" are indicated by crosses 'potent.' The former stand on either side of the priest on the west side of the font: on the east of it stands the bearer of the office book, facing west: again, to the east, are three boys appointed to sing the Alleluias: to the east of these again are the "Rectores secundarii," who are again distinguished by the same crosses 'potent.' At St. Lawrence's these functionaries appear to have been provided with special stools in the choir, their office being to conduct the responds, anthems, graduals, and other musical portions of the service. It would seem they bore a "Tau" cross in processions. Anno 1510-11. "It. payd for couling & dressyng of the ij^o stoles for the Rectors xix^d." They are mentioned again in 1530. (See *Will of Richard Bedowe*).

- (17.) Invent. 1523 "at **Ʒ**ht awter" in the margin.

- (18.) Inv. of 1503 adds—"the orfrey on the bak a narrow crose with warks."

- (19.) Inv. of 1503 inserts in a later hand, "delyud to ou^r lady mass," but in 1523 it was attached to St. Thomas' Altar, q.v.

- (20.) Inv. 1503, inserts "of warks," and

- (21.) adds,—"**ff**ests of m^artys."

- (22.) Inv. 1503, "w^t warks."

- (23.) Inv. 1503 inserts,—"**It.** a chesyble of grene borde Alysaunder, the orfrey crymsyn sylk w^t warks & armys on the back w^t all apparell." A pen has been drawn through the whole, but in the margin is written "delyued to **Ʒ**ht auter."

- (24.) This John Derby built an aisle or chapel on the south side of St. Dionys' Backchurch in London, and was buried there about 1466. (Stowe's Survey).

Anno 1498-9. "It. payed for mending of Darbyces Vestment iiij^d." St. Law accts.

A William Derby was M.P. for Reading anno

- 5 Ric. II. (1382). In the roll of subscribers to the new roofing of the church in 1410 he is termed a "Glover."
- (25.) "Margaret *Brode*" in Inv. 1503, and "*Parker*" in 1523, but obviously *copied* from this of 1517.
- (26.) "It. iij^o Chesabylls" in Inv. 1523.
- (27.) The Inv. of 1503 is defective: there is no list of altar cloths.
- (28.) "St. Thomas" in Inv. 1523.
- (29.) "At o^r ladys aw^d" in margin of Inv. 1523.
- (30.) There were "iij" in 1503.
- (31.) The 1503 Inv. adds "and one of red sylk."
- (32.) Inv. 1503, "a lyon." Inv. 1523 "lyones."
- (33.) Inv. 1503 (*sic*).
- (34.) Inv. 1503 adds "regant."

The next item in this inventory of 1503 (an addition in another hand) is—

"Also a nother corpax cace the one syde of cloth of gold and the other syde of blak velwett w^t tres of gold r & s of the gyft of quene Elizabeth by the pcuryng of M^r Richard Smyth yomā of the quenys robys w^t iij^{or} knoppis of sylver w^t a corpas cloth to the same."

In the "Memorials for a History of Henry VII.," there is frequent mention of this great benefactor to St. Lawrence's:—

Anno 1 Hen. VII.—1485. Easter Term. "To Richard Smyth of the Queen's Wardrobe, for black silk of damask and crimson satin bought for the use of the lady the Queen, 11*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*"

20 June, 1486. "Grant to Richard Smyth ('in consideracioun of the true and feithfulle service whiche oure welbeloved Richard Smythe Yoman of the Robes withe oure derrist wif the quene hath doone vnto us and during his lif entendeth to doo') of the herbage and pannage of the park of Wiggelok, Warwick, during the minority of Edw^d Earl of Warwick to his own proper use without yielding or paying anything therefore to the king. 17 June. P.s. No. 959 Pat. p. 4. m. 16.

Further deliveries from the Great Wardrobe 2 Hen. VII.

"To *Nicholas Powenser*, Ralph Newham and their thirteen companions yeomen of the King's Crown for the allowances of their watches; To *Thomas Slythurst* yeoman of the King's Chamber for the allowance of his watch; To *John Bigge*, *Richard Noresse*, and their twenty companions pages of the King's Chamber for the allowances of their watches; To William Smythe, Richard Bigge, and their six companions pages of the King's Chamber for the allowances of their watches; To William *Betell*, Hamlet Clegge, *Richard Smyth*, and their twenty-six companions servants of the Lady Queen—Cloth of Russet as a gift from the King for an allowance of their watches.

(If *Betell* stand for *Bedell*, then we have no less than six surnames (in *italics*) of families residing in St. Lawrence's parish at this time.)

- (35.) Inv. 1503—"ray borde alysād")."
- (36.) Inv. 1523. "It. a nother of p^rpoll the grownd w^t fflores of Russet," and "It. vij corpesces."
- (37.) Inv. 1523. "A sewdary of Ray silk," *i.e.*, a sudarium or maniple.
- (38.) Inv. 1523. "It. a white canopy for lent."
- (39.) Inv. 1503 "lyned w^t blew bocram."
- (40.) In Inv. 1523 the "borde Alys^aunder" is erased, and "red sarcnett w^t a yelow crosse" substituted.
- (41.) This is erased in Inv. of 1523, and above it is written "It. a litle pawll of bawdkynd w^t a rede crosse for children."
- (42.) Inv. 1503 has another entry, "It. ij rydels of whyt sylk" (rydels=curtains).
- (43.) Inv. 1503 adds "Of the gyft of Joh^ane Barbour." Its significance is obvious; but this is quite in accordance with the form of espousals in the Salisbury use, in which the bride vows to be "bonour and buxum *in bed*, and at bord."
- (44.) Inv. 1523. "It. a cloth w^t gootes to ley in the weddyng chare."
- (45.) To the list of 1523 is appended in a later hand, "It. a pawll of blak bockram w^t a white crosse."

- (46.) "vj banners" in Inv. 1523.
 (47.) "ij" banners in 1523.
 (48.) "pyrleyd for visytacons"—1523.
 (49.) After this is a separate inventory (1523) as follows :—

KANSTYKS OF LATTEN.

- "It. ij greate standards of latten.
 "It. ij small Kanstyks of latten.
 "It. ij sensures of latten.
 "It. ij Crosses of copp & gylte w^t ij staves to the same.
 "It. a Crosse floote of Copp & gylte.
 "It. ij paxes of Copp.
 "It. a Crysmatorye of Copp & gylte.
 "It. a fyar pan of yron.
 "It. xxvij flatte canstiks & ix peacs of branches."
 (50.) In the list of 1503 is one "merkyd w^t a bochers ax,"
 and another "of the gyfte of Dan John Che-
 veley" the total number then was "xix."
 (51.) In the margin of Inv. 1503 is an entry which illus-
 trates this mark :—"It. a tewell of dyap of
 v 3erds in length of þ^e gyft of Thom^s *Phylipps*
 wyfe."
 (52.) The Inv. 1503 has at the end of its list of "Tewells,"
 "It. a nob^l tewell of pane wark blew & white
 of ij^o yerds & di."
 "It. a wasshyng tewell made of cresoms (chrisoms)
 of ij yerds & iij q^{ar}t^{rs}." ^{s.}
 (53.) Anno 1531-2. The church books were rebound and
 repaired.

"The cost^s of the Books.

"Payd for iij buk skynes ij ^o stag skynes, & viiij shepe skynes	xviiij ^s	vj ^d
"Payd for xxi rede skynes	vij ^s	
"Payd for glew		xij ^d
"Payd for small threde & pak threde	ij ^s	ij ^d
"Payd for a dosyn of parchment skynes	ij ^s	ij ^d
"Payd for xv vellam skynes	x ^s	
"Payd to the Joynn ^l for bords to the bokes		xx ^d
"Payd to the boke bynder for byndyng of the bokes	xxiiij ^s	
"Payd for byndyng the new grayle & lymyng thereof	ix ^s	x ^d

"Payd for a buk skyn, a shepe skyn, & rede skyne	ij ^s viij ^d
"Payd for naylls & glew for the Saut ^s in Saynt Johns Ch ^a uncell	iii ^s j ^d
Sma pagis	v ^{li} x ^s iiij ^d ob.
"Payd to ffrere Peter for wryttyng & notyng the new grayle & for the vellam therto	xlvi ^s viij ^d
"Payd for vellam for the great leager	iiij ^{li} xxiij ^d
"Payd for fflorisshyng the same boke w ^t stuff therto belongyng	iiij ^{li} ix ^s j ^d .

Church Plate.

The church plate before the Reformation must have been very magnificent (see Invent. 1517) : its total weight was 583 oz. ; but by 1523, it amounted to 604 oz. ; besides the additional weight (not stated) of the "standing cup" with its cover presented by Mistress Hide, and eighteen silver shields gilt, for the sepulchre, which must have augmented it to at least 700 oz.

In the accounts for 1538 we have the following :—

"Rec. for plate sold (that is to witt) ij Kandlestiks weying xl. unc ^s & di. a Pax weying six vnc ^s . ij Cruetts weying vj onc ^s & di and a bell weying viij vnc ^s . Sma x ^{li} xviijs vij ^d . It. for a gilt cup w ^t a cover vj ^{li} xiijs vij ^d . It. for a Crismatorie iiij ^{li} . Sma xx ^{li} xjs xj ^d ."

This seems to have been done to discharge some old debts—*e.g.* :

"Payd to Ric. Dodgeson for detts owyng to hym the last yere xl ^s viij ^d . "Payd to IHS Masse for old detts vj ^{li} xiijs iiij ^d . "Payd to o ^r Lady Masse that was borrowed iiij ^d ."
--

After this we find 32s. 8d. in hand added to the next year's receipts.

There was another sale of church plate anno 36 H. VIII. (1544), as if the Churchwardens John Bell & John Buckland & the parishioners had some presentiment of the coming spoliation.

“Rec. for c^ytain plate sold that is to witt :—

A bason weying xxiiij onc^s.

A senser weying xxx onc^s.

A pomander weying iij onc^s di.

A shippe weying ix onc^s & di.

A Crismatorie weying xxij onc^s q^a.

The sylu vppon ij bok^s weying xliij onc^s.

An old Crosse w^t nayles & other small pec^s weying
iij onc^s qr^d at iij^s xi ob. the once w^{ch} cu^mnythe to
the sm of xxvi^{li} xiiij^d ob.”

Note.—In November 1545 the king received from Parliament a grant of Chantries, &c., with a further power of seizure at any time.

Another sale took place 1 Ed. VI. (1547), Edward Butler & John Poyntz being churchwardens.

“Rec. of Nicholas Bull of London, Goldsmyth for c^ytain plate to hym sold as followith (that is to witt)—

ij Sensars of silu waying lxvij onc^s iij q^{rt}.

A Crosse of Silu waying lxxij onc^s iij q^{rt}.

A bason of Silu waying xiiij onc^s di.

A Shipp of Silu waying v onc^s iij q^{rt} which
cu^mnyth to c. liij q^{rt} at iij^s x^d the once.

Sma xxxvj^{li} viij^s viij^d.”

“Rec. more of the same Nicholas Bull for a Monstrat of Silu & gilt waying xxij onc^s & for

A Chalice of silu & gilt waying xx onc^s which amountith to xliij onc^s at v^s iij^d the once.

Sma xli^{li} ix^s iij^d.”

The churchwardens this year have a balance of 3*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*., which was delivered to John Poyntz, the senior C.W. for the coming year, “in the presence of the parish.”

Under the head of “Expenses” the following year, we have—

“Paid & delyud to Bell by the assent of the pisshe towards the payngs of the strets xiiij^{li} vj^s viij^d.”

The silver barely escaped the clutches of the Royal Commissioners. The same year we have—

"Paid for makyng of Inventories for the Church goods to the Coīnyssion^{ys} at ij tymes iij^s iij^d."

"Paid to M^r Bell, Mayor, of that was made of a Chalice for payyng in the strets liij^s iij^d."

"Paid & delyured to M^r Bell, Mayor, by M^r Nicholas vppon the ij Chalises by him sold towards the payyng of the Strets by the assent of the pisshe v^{ll}."

Nicholas Nicholas died 2-3 Ed. VI. (1549-50). His widow "Thomosyn" was charged by the C.W. with a debt of 8*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, which her late husband had received for silver and not refunded. She begged to be allowed 30*s.*, which, she said, her late husband had paid to Sir William Webbe and to Sir Harper (chauntry priests) in part of their wages.

There seems to have been some doubt as to this payment of 30*s.* to these chaplains: it is couched in the words "supposed to be paid" in a memorandum of 1549.

Anno 4-5 Ed. VI. "M^d at this accompte it was aggredid that if John Radley wold pay to the Churche at the next accompte xl^s he to haue a gen^lall acquitaunce for all matiers cons^ynyng M^r Turner & M^r Beard & all other matiers for the payment wherof he pmysed to seale an obligaçon."

A Bridal Cup bequeathed to the church in 1534 escaped the Commissioners, and remained intact until 1612.

St. Michael, 25 Hen. VIII. "At this day it is aggredid that the Gilt Cupp of the gifte of M^{res} Hide always to remayne in the custodye of the Mayo^r, if the Mayo^r dwell in the pisshe. And if the Mayo^r dwell out of the pisshe, then to remayne & be in the Custodye of hym that was last Mayo^r in the same pisshe, to th^use declared in the will of the seid M^{res} Hide, whiche ordre taken by John Reade at Skynn^l then Mayo^r, M^r Barton M^r Euard M^r Turner M^r Vansby M^r White & dyuce others of the pisshe."

In another hand follows :—

"M^{ris} Hid disscesed in y^s yere 1534."*

* The date is wrong. She died in 1532-3, anno 24 Hen. VIII.

To this the following note was appended in the reign of Elizabeth : the 'hand' corresponds exactly with the entries made in 1564.

"The said Cuppe was given for the vse to be carried before all bryddes that were wedded in S^t Laurence Church, And nowe is turned to be occupied there at all tymes when nede is to occupie more then one comvnyon cuppe at one tyme, to vse & occupye it y^r as a comvnyon cuppe, &c."

The custom of drinking wine in the church at marriages is enjoined in the Hereford Missal. By the Sarum Missal it is directed that the sops immersed in this wine, as well as the liquor itself, and the cup that contained it, should be blessed by the priest. The form of benediction ran thus :

"Benedic Domine panem istum et hunc potum, et hoc vasculum sicut benedixisti quinque panes in deserto, et sex hydrias in chanaan Galileæ, ut sint sani et sobrii atque immaculati omnes gustantes ex iis," &c.

The beverage used on this occasion was to be drunk by the bride and bridegroom and the rest of the company. The pieces of cake or wafers immersed in wine on this occasion, properly called 'sops,' were probably identical with the "Bride Pastes" mentioned on p. 49.

This wedding cup was in existence in 1607, as appears by the Inventory of that date :—

"A fayre cupp with a cover. Whosoe^r is mayre in this parishe keepeth him."

1612. "The church Cupes was made *newe with covers to them boath* in the year of our Lord 1612 by M^r Doctor Deneyson and William greene and ffrancis Blacke C.W. contayning 34 ovnces or neare thearabout."

In the Inventories of 1612 & 1613 these two cups are poised at "xxxiiij ovncis, three quarternes, and a half"—x^{li} viij^s ix^d.

With these were associated "Too pewter potes, a great and a leas. A small dyshe to set on the tabell : too paynted dishes."*

* At Mardale, Westmoreland, is an old Delft dish with the sacred monogram, surrounded by rays, in the centre, formerly used as a paten.

In the Inventory of 1633 we find—

“It. ij comunion Cuppes of silver wth covers weyinge
33 ounzes and a haulf.

“Item, one silver flaggon weytinge } of the gift of
46 ounzes. } Richard John-

“Item, one silver bread plate wey- } son in 1631.
inge 9 ounzes. }

Anno 1638. “Memorand. The Challis Cup of M^r Arthur
Curtis w^{ch} cost 5*l*. by the addition of more
money (3*l*. 14*s*.) by Richard Curtis, was counted
& made 2 Cupps weighing 34 ounces ij dwts.
w^{ch} cost 8*l*. 14*s*.

“Itm. one flagon silver of y^e gift of M^r Jo. Sanders
weighing ounces prise 26*l*.”

In the accounts for this year is an item of 2*s*. paid
for the carriage of the flagon, so that we may
presume that M^r Saunders presented this flagon
the same year.

The Inventory of 1648 has—

“Item, two silver Cupps wth covers weighing 33
ounces & a halfe (pcell gilt) (the Cups of
1612).

“Item, *two other* silver cupps wth covers weighing 34
ounces 2 dwts. of the gift of M^r Arthur Curtis
& his sonne Richard Curtis.

“Item, one silver flaggon of the gift of John Saun-
ders Esquire weighing 72 ounces.

“Item, one silver flaggon weigh- } of M^r John-
ing 46 ounces. } son’s gift.”
1 silver bread plate weighing 9 }
ounces and a halfe. }

The Inventory of 1772, with Notes.

Plate.

	oz.	dwt.
“One large Silver Dish, the gift of M ^{rs} Barbara Foster, weighing	62	0
This dish has a double ogee-shaped		

oz. dwt.

edge with gadroon bordering. On a raised centre is a widow's escutcheon bearing a tower embattled between three buglehorns stringed; impaling, three bars with three lions' heads erased in chief. Underneath is inscribed "*The Gift of Mrs. Barbara Foster to St. Laurence's Church in Reading.*" The Hall mark is the "r" within the cinquefoil shield of 1752-3.

"One large D^o Flagon the gift of John Saunders, Esq. w^t 72 7

This beautiful vessel, as we have seen, was presented in 1638-9, and bears the Hall mark for that year. On its front is engraved a shield, bearing—'Per chevron, three elephants' heads (two and one) erased.' The Saunders of Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, & Warwickshire have—'Per chev. sa. and ar. three elephants' heads erased, two and one, counterchanged.' Underneath is engraved "*The gift of John Saunders Esquier once an inhabitant in the pish of St. Lawrence in Readinge.*"

"One smaller Do. Do. the Gift of M^r Richard Johnson 45 18

This very beautiful flagon is inscribed a little above the centre "Ex Dono Richardi Johnson Martii 25 An^o Dñi 1632." It bears the Hall mark of 1631-2.

"One D^o Paten (or Bread Plate) the gift of M^r Richard Johnson w^t 11 0

The following inscription is engraved round the centre, "✠ Ex Dono Richardi Johnson Martij 25 Anno Dñi 1632." It bears the Hall mark of that year.

"Two D^o Cups and Covers the Gift of Mess^{rs} Arthur & Richard Curtis w^t 34 9

Both these chalices, with their covers, bear the same Hall mark,—the curved

oz. dwt.

“V” of 1637-8. One is inscribed “Ex
Dono m^{ri} Arthuri Curtes,” and the other
“Ex Dono m^{ri} Richardi Curtes.” They are
interesting and beautiful examples of church
plate.

“One other D^o Paten (or Bread Plate) Bought
in 1708 wt^l 11 7

This is very like the earlier one of 1632.
An inscription encircles the centre, “Hæc
Patina ex oblationibus collecta erat Anno
Dom. 1708.” Round the outer lip are the
words, “Panis quem frangimus nonne par-
ticipatio corporis Domini est.”

“Two D^o Dishes (to collect the offerings) one
bought in 1701, the other in 1735 . . . wt^l 24 4

Under the bowl of the older one is
engraven

*William Grover } and
John Knight } Church Wardens.
1701.*

The other bowl is of the same size and
pattern. Underneath, it has

*“St. Lawrance, Reading
Philip Phelp } Churchwardens
John Jacob } 1735.”*

It bears the Hall mark for that year.

Both have the sacred monogram I.H.S
in the centre within, surrounded by the
words, “Benificentiam & Liberalitatem
oblivisci nolite,” obviously added about the
beginning of the present century.

“One D^o Bason and Stand, the Gift of M^{rs}
Elizabeth Thorn, 1767, for the use of
Baptism wt^l 21 8

The church was broken open March 2,
1788, when this bason and stand were
stolen.

“One silver head on a staff, made use of by the

oz. dwt.

Sexton or Beadle, when attending the minister. Bought in the year 1767.”
 Weight not taken

Total weight 281 13”

The head now in use is something like an inverted pear surmounted by a cross. The upper portion is divided into four sections by two bands of beadwork intersecting each other at the cross, and terminating downwards in a similar band passing round the ball at its greatest circumference. As the Hall mark on the socket is that of 1790-1, the old mace must have been renewed at this time. The present mace weighs 11 oz. 9 dwts.

To this must be added a funnel-shaped silver strainer, bearing the initials A. S., and the Hall mark of 1730-1.

Monuments.

Destruction of Monumental Brasses.

There are indications in the old accounts of gross neglect, if not of wanton destruction, of the ancient brass memorials, by the authorities before the Reformation.

As soon as the plates became detached from their ledgers, they were not replaced, but sold.

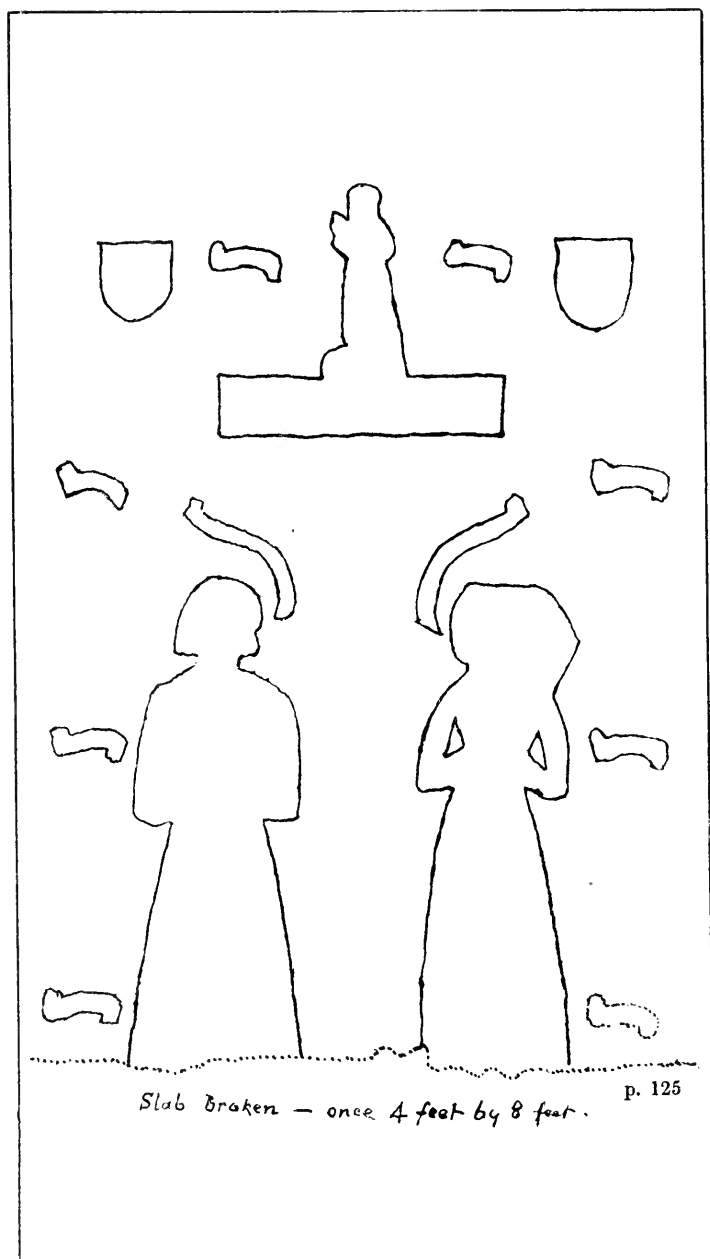
1524. “Rec. for broke mettell of the graves weying ix^{li} xvij^d.”

1558. “R. for xvj^{li} waight of grave brasse at jd ob ij^s.”

This is not so clean a sweep as was made at St. Mary's in this town about 1547—

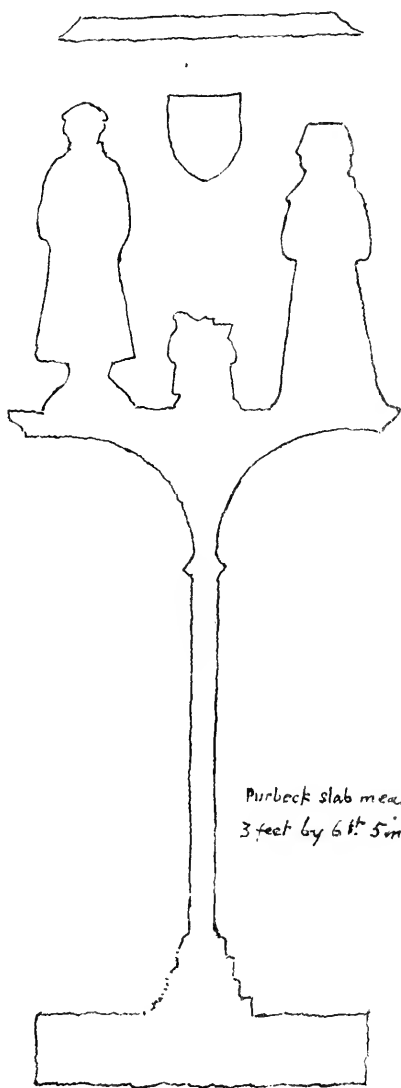
“Receyvid of John Saunders for iij c^{wt} lacking ix^{li} of metall that was taken upp of the graves, and of olde candlestycks at vj^s the hundred xlvj^s ij^d.”

(St. Mary's C.W. accounts.)



Slab broken — once 4 feet by 8 feet.

p. 125



Purbeck slab measures
3 feet by 6 ft 5 in.

C. H. del.

p. 125 (bottom.)

The earliest survey of the monuments in St. Lawrence's was made by Capt. Symonds, an officer in the Royal Army, 3rd April, 1664. His "Church Notes" are now in the British Museum. (Harl. MS. 965.) They are specially valuable as indicating the original position of the memorials. His observations will be found in the following pages in connection with the monuments to which they relate. He attributes the spoliation of some of the gravestones to the "Roundheads" and "Rebells" who were quartered in the church the year before his visit—apparently deriving this information from the clerk.

A notice of these despoiled memorials will be interesting. The best of them form the pavement of the vestry at the west end of the north aisle.

The largest stone now lying under the north wall was sprinkled with small scrolls, and indications of eight of them remain. There was a shield at each corner of the slab. At the top is the matrix of what may have been a figure of the B. Virgin and Child, though more probably of St. Catharine, for the depression has a circular projecting outline towards the feet, as if indicating a wheel standing by the side of the figure (see under *Altar of St. John Baptist*). Beneath this were the principal effigies of a man and his wife, each about three feet six inches in length. The lower portion of the slab has been cut off, and with it the feet of the principal figures, together with the inscription, a few scrolls, and two shields. It was certainly one of the finest brasses in the county. (*See Illustration.*) These indications assign the memorial to about the year 1475. In Ashmole's time it was in the vicinity of St. Thomas' altar. It may have been the memorial of *Thomas Clarke*, hosier, a great benefactor to the church. He was churchwarden in 1436, 1440-2. *Amicia*, his mother, died in 1442.

He and his wife Elizabeth presented a cope of blue velvet with a chasuble, two tunacles, and apparels, besides a pall of the same work. The chasuble, or "Vestment," is described as of blue velvet, embroidered with flowers. The pall was also embroidered with flowers of gold.

Another large slab has the matrix of a fine bracket brass very similar to the memorial of John Bloxham and John Whitton, at Merton College, Oxford, but without canopies. The matrix is in excellent preservation, and has a sharp

well-defined margin. A slender stem rising from a graduated base resting on the inscription plate supports a cross bracket, on which stand the effigies of a man and his wife, with a son and two daughters between them. Above the children, and on a level with the upper portion of the adult figures, is a shield. A narrow horizontal inscription label, nearly as wide as the bracket, runs across the head of the memorial. The outlines of the *figures* are very similar to those of brasses at Bramley, Hants (1452), and Taplow, Bucks (1455). (*See Illustration.*)

Another stone lying near the west door of the north aisle in the vestry has a much worn impression of a bracket brass, almost a fac-simile of the last, but with only two adult figures.

Another stone adjoining the last, and very much worn, has indications of a brass consisting of the effigies of a man and his wife standing on an inscription plate, c. 1512. The figures are slightly turned towards each other. The man was habited in the long civilian's cassock, with the large sleeves of the period. The hair was straight and long, reaching to the shoulders.

A stone lying under the vestry screen has the much worn matrices of two shrouded figures about two feet in length. Their winding-sheets have been gathered and tied at the head and feet. The figures are slightly turned towards each other, and their emaciated forms were visible through an opening in the shroud as usual. It was placed in the church about the year 1500.

Close by the south wall of the tower is a despoiled memorial of a very interesting character. The brass plates have perished long ago; the very matrices are completely trodden out; the glistening rivets alone remain to tell the story. The upper portion of the stone has been occupied by an inscription plate beneath two whole-length figures. In the centre of the slab are three rivets, one of which forms the apex of a triangle, the other two being in base. This location of rivets is distinct from the rest of the plan, and suggests a subject of special character. If the plate indicated had been a shield, the rivets would have been reversed; the single rivet would have been in base near the point of the shield, and the other two in chief. A plate in

the form of a *bell* would fully comply with the rivet scheme, and identify this slab as the memorial of Henry Kelsall, who gave "The Bell of Jesus" in 1493. Kelsall was buried on the north side of the Altar of Jesus, and the spot was occupied after the Reformation by children. How long they sat there, there is no evidence to show, but probably quite long enough to account for the very worn condition of the stone.

The gift of the bell, too, would seem to have had a special commemoration at the bottom of the slab, by an inscription ribbon of brass fastened by a single line of rivets, and supporting a slender cross beneath the suggested bell. It was very customary in the Middle Ages to represent on the tombs of benefactors the particular object presented by them to the church: thus, the tomb of Amboise, the founder of the great bell of Amiens Cathedral, bears the figure of the bell: a brass at Broxbourne, Herts, 1531, represents John Borrell in armour holding a very ornate candlestick in his right hand, indicating his gift to the sanctuary. Founders of churches in the same way are often represented with a diminutive figure of a church in their hands: at North Creak, Norfolk, it is placed on the right arm of the effigy.

When Symonds made his "Church Notes" in 1642, a tomb was remaining which he was informed was Kelsall's, but tradition has long since ceased to point out his memorial, and the unfortunate removal of the monument from its ancient site has rendered its absolute identification less certain. Still the evidence adduced is almost conclusive. Symonds writes—

"Another flat stone in y^e north yle of the church neare the chancel fairely inlayed wth brasse, the picture of a man wth a priest & beades by his side & a woman: the inscription w^{ch} was under them was stolne by the Rebells of London about May, 1643.

"A picture of a man and these verses are on y^e west side of *this* stone *still* :—

Ihu yat in Bethelem was barne
 Sabe vs yat we be not forlorne
 So yat we may haue fry'cion
 We pray you at his bittⁿ passion

And dyed for manys redempcion
 And bring or sowle to eternal saluac'on
 Of thy celestiall deite
 For us say a patⁿ noster & an Ave.

4 ▽ stolne

For Kimsall
 who gave the great
 bell saith the
 clerke.

There is another fine marble slab under the north arch of the tower showing the matrix of a man and his wife with an inscription at their feet, c. 1510. In 1741 this stone was converted into a memorial for Thomas Awberry.

Epitaphs and Monuments.

From Rev. C. Coates' "History of Reading." With Notes
 by the Author.

Within the rails of the altar, on a flat stone, is this inscription:—

"S. H. S.

Beatam anhelantes resuscitationem in vitam
 æternam, obdormiscunt

Franciscus Hungerford M.D. et Elizabetha
 uxor ejus, in agro Wilt utrique nati
 ex qua suscepit ille septem filios
 et quinque filias quorum decem supervixerunt
 illi, parsque totius numeri dimidiata
 quam proxime hic sepulta jacet.

Connubii inter eos vinculum, obstructum fuit
 anno decollationis Caroli Primi
 regis optimi et martyris:

dissolutum; primo, uxoris interitum 1696:
 annoque sequenti, mors, illum, meridie noctis
 integra, solute dormientem, in medela artem
 quasi pertimescens, inopinanter, arripuit.
 Edwardus filius eorum unicè superstes et heres
 pietatis et amoris ergo hoc mærens posuit.

Ob. { ille } 1702 { octogesimo currente.
 { illa } anno ætatis suæ { sexigesimo sexto."

(Arms—corrected from Burke—‘Sa. two bars arg^t, in chief, three plates, impaling three lions passant guardant. Crest : Out of a ducal coronet or, a pepper garb of the first between two sickles erect, ppr.’)

The Wiltshire branch bore the same arms as the Hungerfords of Farleigh Castle, co. Somerset, where numerous ancient monuments of the family remain in the castle chapel.)

On a flat stone :

“Spe resurgendi

Hic prope depositi sunt cineres Edwardi Dalby

Ar. qui obiit 30 Martii anno Dñi 1672,
ætatis 56.

Et Franciscæ uxoris eius, filiæ superstitis et hēdis

Caroli Holloway, ar. servientis ad legem :

Hæc obiit 17 Augusti anno Dñi 1717,
ætatis 90.

“Et Elizabetha filiæ eorundem, qua obiit
8 Februarii, anno Dñi 1686, ætatis 23.”

Arms : Barry wavy of six, Or, and Gules, impaling—a fess between three fleurs de lys : in a canton dexter five ermines.

Crest :—A demi griffin segreant.

(This stone is now in the churchyard and forms a cover to the passage to the heating apparatus. It is a fine stone and in excellent preservation.

The pedigree of Dalby, of Reading, is given by Ashmole in his “Visitation of Berks.”)

On a flat stone :

“JOHANNES HUNGERFORD

de Blackland in Comitatu

Wilts, hic jacet sepultus. Obiit

xxviij die Maii, anno

MDCLXXVIIJ.” [1678.]

(The arms are those of the Hungerfords of

Heytesbury—‘per pale indented gu. and vert. a chevron or,’ impaling—‘party per fesse indented, a chevron.’ This memorial now lies in the S.E. corner of St. John’s Chapel.)

On a flat stone :

“ John Nichols, D.D.
vicar of this parish
died June 25, 1788
aged 65 years.”

(This stone now forms a portion of the upper step into St. John’s Chapel.)

On a flat stone :

“ M^{rs} Ann Harward dy’d February
the 27th, 17—, aged 69.”
(Missing in 1883.)

On a black marble gravestone on the north side of the altar :

“ M.S.
Carolus Morus
publicus auctoritate regia notarius
supremæ curiæ admiralitatis Angliæ
pro-registrarius, honestissimus
vir charitate insignis, et amico fidus
sub hoc marmore, spe resurgendi
sepultus jacet.
Vitam hanc caducam, secundo die mensis
Octobris, anno salutis restauratæ 1673
pro beatiori in cœlis mutavit.”

Arms—A chevron between three heathcocks.
Crest—A blackamoor’s head.

(Probably buried beneath the new altar pace.)

On a flat stone :

“ Here lieth the Body of Richard Curtis Esq.
who departed this life August 30th 1731
aged 56 years.

Also of Elizabeth his wife
who died September the 22, 1769, aged 93 years."
(This monument is missing.)

On a flat stone :

"In memory of M^r William Watlington
who died Oct. 3, 1776, aged 52 years.
Also in memory of
M^{rs} Catharine Watlington,
who died Sept. 1, 1779,
aged 51 years."
(Now missing.)

On a black stone :

"In memory of M^r Abraham Watlington sen^r
late Alderman of this Borough, who died
Nov. 13, 1766, aged 69 years.
Also Elizabeth his wife died June 8, 1768,
aged 84."
"And Hannah, their grand-daughter, died July 10,
1768, aged eight months and ten days."
"Also of M^r Abraham Watlington jun^r, son of the above,
who died Dec. the 10th, 1773, aged 51 years."
(Now missing.)

On a slab beneath a recess which formerly contained an
urn on the N. side of the Altar :—

"Jeremiah Nicholson D.D.
rector of Kiddington, Oxon,
and vicar of this parish
died July 18, 1771, aged 47 years."

On a white marble tablet :

"Near this place
lie the remains of
the Rev. M^r Philip Whitehead A.M.
vicar of Basildon
in this county
and formerly many years
curate of this parish

who departed this painful life
 June 2, 1767
 in humble hopes of a joyful
 resurrection at the last day."

(On the north wall within the vestry.)

On a mural monument :

"VNDER THY FEETE READER
 SLEEP ~~THE~~ REMAINES OF
 RICHARD FYNNMORE HIS
 FATHER^S BENJAMIN & HIS
 BROTHER^S IOSEPH WHO COM
 ING FROM OXON TO ~~THE~~ BV
 RIAL OF A FRIEND FOVND ~~HERE~~
 HIS OWN^E GRAVE & SO MINGLED
 DVST WITH HIS ANCESTORS
 FEB^R 6 ~~THE~~ YEARE OF CHRIST
 1664 & OF HIS AGE 40.
 ONE SON ~~HE~~ LEFT AND I.F. A
 MOVRNEFVLL WIDDOW WHO
 PLACED THIS TO HIS MEMORY."

(The slab, of blue slate with gilt letters, is broken into five pieces, and now lies on the step under the screen at the entrance into St. John's Chapel. Wylliam Ffynmore was C.W. in 1565-6. He gave 5^s towards the recasting of Kelsall in 1567. Humphry Ffynmore, probably his son, was C.W. in 1604. In his accounts for 1605 he writes :—

"Rec. of my *brother* Willyam Ffynmore executor to my mother Anne Ffynmore 12^d"—for tolling his mother's knell.

William Fynnmore was elected to a scholarship at St. John's, Cambridge, from Reading Grammar School, in 1578. He was B.A. in 1583, and afterwards Bachelor of Law.)

On a veined marble tablet :

"Edward Hungerford, Esq.,
 Lyes interred in the grave of his father D^r Francis
 Hungerford, near this place. Ob. 6 Feb. 1732 at 70.

By whose will (which was proved in the Prerogative Court) two hundred pounds were given to the maior, aldermen, and burgesses of Reading, and since paid to them by his executors, M^r Thomas Blagrove, and M^r Robert Deane, in trust, that the interest thereof should for ever be paid to the vicar of this parish half-yearly, so long as he or his substitute shall daily, between the hours of two and seven in the afternoon, read in the church the Common Prayer and Evening Service according to the Liturgy of the Church of England."

(This slab has been inserted above the arches in the south wall of St. John's Chapel.)

ST. JOHN'S CHANCEL.

On a monument of white and Sienna marble :

"To the memory of

Lieut. Col.
Cha. Marsh
Died June 1, 1748
aged 38.

M^{rs} Alice Marsh
died Nov. 9, 1781,
aged 70.

M^{rs} Mary Case
died Sep. 9, 1773,
aged 61.

Samuel Case Esq.
died March 10 1778,
aged 66.

Arms: Quarterly Arg^t & gu : in the first quarter a horse's head.

Crest—A horse's head issuing out of a mural crown.

(The uppermost monument in the S.E. corner.)

On a white marble tablet :

"Sacred to the memory of
The rev. John Spicer M.A.
rector of Tidmarsh and Sulham,
prebendary of Salisbury,
and for many years master of the
free grammar school
in this his native town.

His genius, learning, friendship,
charity and genuine patriotism
render his death which happened on Nov. 27, 1784,
in the 72nd year of his age,
a public and private loss."

(Now on the north wall in the vestry.)

On a brass plate in a gravestone, on which is the figure of a man in a gown :

Here Und^r this M^{ble} stone lieth Walter barton gent Which
desesid y^e
XXV day of Apryll in the yere of our lord God M^lV^lxxxviii on
Whos Soule And all Crysten Soules Jhu Have Mercy
AMEN
Celeste qu^{da}: bita qui duxerat ista: berb^z ecce states: ia
req^{iescit} humo.

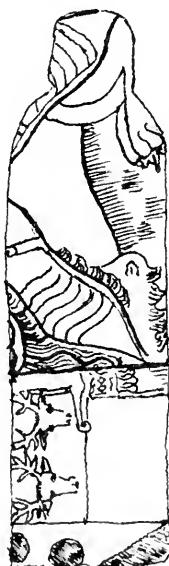
This monument is perhaps the most interesting memorial in the county. Two years ago it lay on its ledger in front of the altar, having been removed here from St. John's chancel in 1848. From the number of small perforations in the lines of the engraving, the author supposed it to be a 'palimpsest' or 'rescript,' and having obtained permission to remove it, his surmisings were verified. On the reverse the plates exhibit portions of the effigy of Sir John Popham, Kt., with the whole of his monumental inscription.

The plates have been recently enclosed or bordered in frames of brass, mounted on strong hinges, and attached to slabs of red freestone, which have been inserted in the north pier of the chancel arch.

The cost of this work was chiefly borne by the members of the Popham family of Littlecote, near Hungerford, whose kind co-operation and assistance in this restoration the author desires thankfully to acknowledge.

From the will of Walter Barton, printed in this volume, much may be learnt of his family and status (see Index). The following notices are from the church accounts :—

1518. "It. of the gifte of M^r Barton toward the making of the vestr' xl^s."



Foot of Effigy - w^t Lion

Part of Tabard.
Fourth Quarter
Zouch. 'Popham'.

Hic iacet Johis popham miles quondam dñs de Thorney in Normandia & dñs
 de Hardstow de Gene ar & Alington & Albi in Anglia qui obiit. xiii.
 die mensis Aprilis. Anno dñi millmo cccc. lxxviii. sub aie pueri de 2



here find this table flow with Easter basket gent which herself p^r
 Feb day of month in the year of our lord God is the year on
 whose soul and all Eastern souls the great martyr is a
 bright quida. And our purchase the things are here in respect homo

1518. "It. paid for xx q^{rt} of lime viij^d a qr to M^r Barton
xiijs iiij^d."

1519. "It. of M^r Barton toward the repaçon of the
quere vjs viij^d."

1523. Inventory—"It. a sensure of silu and pcell gilt
of the gift of Mastres Barton."

(She died in 1545.)

1542-3. "Payd for lynynge for the ij tynacles that M^r
Barton dyd give ijs."

In 1578 a Mr. Barton and Mr. Walter Bureton or Buryngton, both "living in the contrye," probably at Streatley, gave xij^d each towards the recasting of "Kelsall."

Walter Barton's landed property at Streatley was inherited by the Buriton family. Mr. Haines in his list of monumental brasses (ii. 16—1861) gives the following as remaining in Streatley Church at that time:—

1. Griffin, son of Thom. & Eliz. Clarke, 1583.
2. Margt. wife of Wm. Buryngton, gent, 1570 effigy covered by a pew in chancel.
3. Thomas Clarke, gent, 1600, and wife Eliz. a dau. & coh. of *Griffith Barton Esq. (named in Walter B.'s will)*, 1598, with 4 chil., Griffeth, Agnes, Eliz. & Margt., in the chancel.
4. Thomas Buriton Esq. (son & heir of Wm. 3rd son of Thomas Buriton, of Hereford, Esq.) 1603, & wife Joan (Wier) by whom he had 6 sons (then dec.) and 11 daus, partly covered by a pew."

The church has been *restored* since 1861, and some of these are now missing.

Sir John Popham was buried (according to John Stowe's "Survey of London," p. 478^b edit. 1633) in the cloisters of the Charterhouse, London, where was a monument to his memory. How comes it, then, at St. Lawrence's? The Charterhouse was dissolved in 1536-7, when the monuments, &c., were sold, Sir John Popham's brass among the rest. It must have been purchased by an engraver, who in the following year received an order for a memorial for Walter Barton.

The artist fortunately took as much of Popham's brass as suited his purpose, selecting the inscription-plate for Walter Barton's epitaph.

Barton's *effigy* is formed of two pieces of Sir John's brass, one containing part of the feet of the knight reposing on a lion, and the other, the arms of Popham impaling Zouch.

"This impalement of Popham (viz: arg^t, on a chief gules, two stags' heads cabossed or) with Zouch (viz: gules, a chevron arg^t between 10 bezants, 6 in chief and 4 in base), is described by Bysshe and Ashmole in their Berks Visitation of 1666 as being painted with others in the upper windows of the hall at Aldermaston House, which belonged to the Forster family."

(Edw^d Bellasis, Esq., 'Bluemantle,')
College of Arms, London.

The old ledger on which Barton's brass was laid, was undoubtedly the very slab which covered the body of Sir John Popham. In adapting it for a second memorial, the old matrices were chiselled out and the stone rubbed down, but the bottoms of most of the rivet-holes containing the leaded rivets remain, indicating the *bearings* of the original. The principal figure stood beneath a canopy. The knight was habited in a tabard of arms, and the fragment taken from the left-hand side of the figure exhibits the fourth and part of the third quarterings with the hilt of the contiguous sword. The tail of the lion passed under the foot of the knight and terminated in a graceful curve by the side of the sword. The sollerets, exhibiting seven laminæ, are finely pointed.

The slab is of Purbeck marble.

Sir John Popham's epitaph, on the reverse of Walter Barton's, is as follows:—

"*Hic iacet Johes Popham Miles qndam dñs de Turney in
Normandia & dñs
de Chardesford de Dene ac de Albyngton & Alibi in Anglia
qui obiit xiiij^o
die Mens' Aprilis Anno Dñi Millmo CCCC lxiij^o Cui⁹
aie ppiciet^r de*"

Besides this accidental association of the name of Popham with St. Lawrence's, there is an entry in the old accounts which points to a closer connection:—

Anno 1498. "Itm. payed for mending of Poppains Vestment ij^d."

The "*vestment*" or chasuble seems to indicate some mass of requiem performed here for some member of the family, and, as it required mending in 1498, it was presumably of considerable age at that time: indeed it may have been given by this very Sir John or his executors for his commemoration.

There is a picture of Sir John Popham on horseback in the vestry, presented by Rev. Sir W. H. Cope, Bart., of Bramshill, a copy of an illumination in a MS. in the British Museum. Here the knight is represented in a tabard of arms, with horse trappings similarly emblazoned. His sollerets appear precisely as on the brass, but the arms have the addition of a bezant between the bucks' heads. Might this have been added while Treasurer to the King's Household?

The Pophams have been seated in the south of England from a very remote period.

GILBERT POPHAM, of Popham, in Hampshire, living in the time of King John, espoused Joan, dau. and heiress of Robert Clarke (a feoffee in trust for the manor of Popham, as appears by charter of the Empress Maud), and had a son and successor,

ROBERT POPHAM of Popham who had two sons—1. John; 2. Hugh.

JOHN, who succeeded his father at Popham, was great-grandfather of

SIR JOHN POPHAM, who died 16 Ric. II., leaving by Sybil his wife, dau. and heiress of Sir Lawrence St. Martin, two sons, John (Sir) and Henry.

This SIR JOHN POPHAM was constable and governor of Southampton, and of Touraine and Bayonne in France in the time of Henry V., and according to his epitaph, "lord of Turney in Normandy." He was made Treasurer of the Household in the succeeding reign.

John Stowe, in his account of St. Sepulchre's in the Bayly, writes—"One of the Popham's (undoubtedly this Sir John) was a great builder there: viz. of one faire Chappell on the south side of the Quire as appeareth by his Armes and other Monuments in the glasse windowes thereof, and also the faire Porch of the same church towards the south: his Image faire graven in stone was fixed over

the said porch, but defaced and beaten downe : his titles were these by offices : Chancellour of Normandy, Captaine of Vernoyle, Perche, Susan, and Bayon, and Treasurer of the King's Household. He dyed rich, leaving great treasure of strange coynes, and was buried in the Charter house Church by West Smithfield. The first Nobilitating of these Pophames was by Matilda the Empresse, daughter to Henry the first, and by Henry her son : one Popham a gentleman of very faire lands in Southamptonsire dyed without issue male, about Henry the sixth, and leaving foure daughters, they were married to Foster, Barentine, Wodham, and Hamden. Popham Deane (distant three miles from Clarendon) was sometime the chief Lordship or Mannour house of those Popham's."

HENRY POPHAM, brother of this Sir John Popham, died 17 Hen. VI., leaving by Joan, his wife, a son,

SIR STEPHEN POPHAM, who married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Nicholas Read, of Somersetshire, and had four daughters, his coheirs (spoken of by Stowe), viz :—

- (1.) Margery, married Thomas Hampden, Esq.
- (2.) Eleanor, married to John Barentine, Esq.
- (3.) Elizabeth, married to John Wadham, Esq.
- (4.) Alice, married to Humphrey Forster, Esq., which accounts for the arms of the Pophams at Aldermaston House, the seat of the Forsters.

The Pophams of Littlecote are descended from Sir Hugh, second son of Robert, the son of Gilbert, at the head of this pedigree.

According to Capt. Symonds, this monument in 1644 was contiguous to that of John, Rector of Erley, and John Cerne, Vicar of St. Lawrence.

On a brass plate in a gravestone, where was the figure of a man, is this inscription :

Here lyeth the body of **JOHN JOHNSON**, late of Reading, mercer, who habing lived 50 years left this earthly tabernacle.

He was a lover of the Gospell, and a good benefactour to the church and poore of this parish. Obiit 24 Martii, anno Dom. 1614.

And of John his son, who, living fife yeares, deceased the
2^d day of June, A.D. 1614.

Thus blossoms young by death's means untimely fall from tree,
Thus God each man's nature's course doth evermore decree.

(The whole of this monument has disappeared since 1802.
Vide "Views of Reading Abbey.")

On a marble gravestone :

" ANTONIUS MASONUS DE MARGARETA
conjugæ sua charissima
quæ obiit Martii 6^o
1630.

Here, and in Heaven, rest my blessed wife
Who was the crowne and comfort of my lyfe,
In grace by grace to glory let me follow
My spouse, Thy saint O Thou whose name I hallow."

Arms—A lion rampant, impaling—paly of six ; over
all a bend dexter.

(Missing.)

On various flat stones are the following inscriptions :

" Here lieth the body of Mary Deane, widow of John
Deane Esq., late of Mattingley, in com. Southton.
Obiit 5 Mar. anno Dom 1706, ætatis suæ 81."

" Here lie the bodies of John and Richard Wilder late
of this parish—1727."

" Here lieth the body of Richard Wilder, coach harness
maker, Citizen of London, and Freeman, late of the
parish of St. James, in the liberty of Westminster,
who departed this life the 17th day of December,
1735, aged 47 years. Also John Wilder and De-
borah, his father and mother.

" Also to the memory of William Wilder, who died
Dec. 11, 1731."

" Here lyeth the body of Robert Blake, gent, twice
mayor of this borough, who departed this life March
26, 1727, aged 95.

" Here also lie the bodies of Ann and Mary, daughters

of the said Robert and Mary his wife, who departed this life Sept. 21, 1732, aged 24.

"Here also lieth the body of Mary, the wife of the aforesaid Mr. Robert Blake, who departed this life the 25th day of June A.D. 1734, aged 65 years."

IN THE VESTRY.

On a black gravestone :—

"Anne Watts
aged 9 years
died the 24th day
of October 1723.

Also
Elizabeth Watts
wife of
John Watts, who died
Sept. 25, 1732, in the 60th
year of her age.

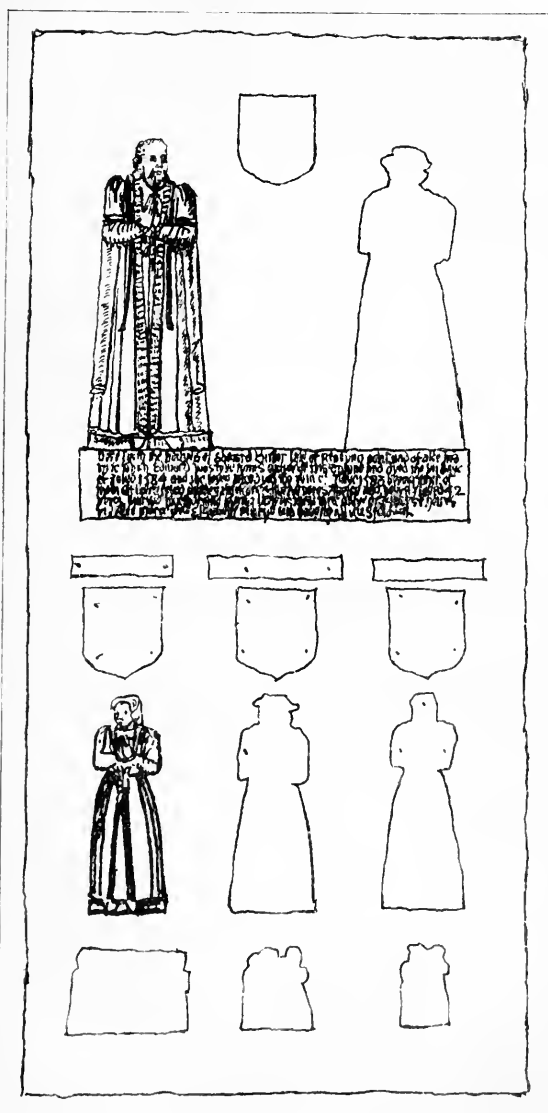
Also
Eliz. Collis her daughter
ob. Oct 15, 1738
æt. 41.

Also
the body of the abovesaid
John Watts
late of this
parish esq, who departed
this life May 2, 1750,
aged 78 years."

THE CHANCEL.

"In Ashmole's time there was 'a fair grey marble tomb' raised in the chancel, whereon in brass plates were the figures of a man in a gown, and his wife, in the habit of the time, with the following inscription :—

Here lyeth the bodyes of Edward Butler late of Reading gent,
and of Alice his



wyfe, which Edward was fyve tymes Maïor of this Towne,
 and dyed the vij daye
 of Iulye 1584. and the sayed Alice dyed the xviij of Iulye
 1583. beyng either of
 them att there sayed deathes threscore & twelbe yeres Apeere,
 and habynyg lybed 42
 yeres maryed together, and lebynyg behynd them three onlye
 daughters & heires
 bid' Alice, Marke, and Elyzabeth maryed, and habynyng issue
 as followeth :

Alice, married to William Buttell, esq.

Under this name was the figure of a woman standing
 holding up her hands in a praying posture, and under
 her, three sons and four daughters in the like postures.

Mary Butler, married to Will. Howell Doctour of
 Divinity.

The figure of a woman in the like posture, with two sons
 and one daughter.

Elizabeth Butler, married to Richard Staberton
 esquire.

The figure of a woman and two daughters in the same
 posture of devotion.

On a rim of brass, fixed in the ledge of the stone, were
 these verses;—

Chryst to me as lyfe on earth
 And death to me is gain ;
 Because I trust through him alone
 Salvation to obtaine,
 So brittle is the state of man
 So soon it doth decay
 So all the glory of the world
 Must pass and fade away.

This monument has been laid flat, and the stone is almost

covered by pews, so that only two lines of the inscription are now legible." (Coate's "Reading.")

Capt. Symonds' account of this monument (1644) supplies a few interesting items:—

"A faire Altar Tombe betweene the 2 middle pillars of the chancel. This single escocheon (on a bend between 6 covered cups, a mullet for diff.—Butler) is 3 times of each *side*, and at each *end* of the Tombe.

"Upon y^e *surface* of y^e Tombe w^{ch} is grey marble is the 2 pictures of a man & woman: under them this inscription, and betweene them the afore men^{co}ed coate."

He then gives the arms of Bottell impaling Butler (1.) Gu. a chev. betw. 3 combs argt. for Bottell; (2.) a cross botonnée; (3.) a cinquefoil w^t a lion passant in chief; (4.) blank.

The next shield is Powell impaling Butler—Per pale, 3 lions rampant counterchanged—for Powell.

The third shield is Staverton (argt a chev. sa. betw. 3 maunches vert.) impaling Butler as before.

The "mensa" of this once "high" tomb, now stripped of its brasses, lies apparently over the grave of Edward Butler. In 1848, the three remaining plates were removed to a stone lying near the south stalls in the choir. In 1882 they were removed for their better preservation to the south wall of the chancel within the sacarium, the inscription plate having been carefully restored by the author.

3 May, 1614. "Att this accompte my Doct^r offred in the behaulf of M^r Samuell Powell to paye x^s a yere to this church duringe his lief by p^mise for the supporting of M^r Butler's toombe. But for some causes it was referred to be considered of vntill another tyme by consent of the pishioners pⁿte, and soe the money was refused."

Low Sunday, 16 April, 1615. "As touching M^r Butler's toombe he shall pay xx^s p^a aⁿn for eu^r, or ells the toombe shall not be repayed, but at the next occasion to be pulled downe."

1618. "For Edward Butler's Tomb:

At this accompt it was geuen to the parishioners to vnderstand that diuers of them have byn

earnest wth M^r Samuella Powell to geve some yearly portion towards the support of his grandfather's Toombe w^{che} was erected in the Church Chauncell to the hurt of the parishe (there beinge noe allowance to maynteyne it). And that the said Samuella Powell for and towards the mayntenaunce of his grandfathers toombe will from thencefourth yerely to the churchwardens of this parishe give xx^s for ever. And that he will take order as by his counsell he shoulde be advised to bynd some of his land in Readinge to and for the true payment thereof for ever.

p W^{illm} Wylmer."

In 1697 the churchwardens returned that the sum of 7*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* was due to them for the standing of M^r Butler's Tomb.

In 1719 the arrearage amounted to 13*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

The following notices of the Butler family are from the church accounts:

1498. "It. rec. for the Sepulcr of Thomas Butler vij^s viij^d."

" "It. rec. for wast of Torchys at the burying of the same Thomas ij^s j^d."

1524. "Xpofer Butteler C.W."

1531. Great Bell. "Rec. for the Knyll of X^ofer Butler xij^d—Grave and covering vij^s iiij^d."

1539. "Rec. for the grave of John Butteler & for couing thereof vij^s iiij^d."

1544. "Rec. for the grave of M^{res} Butler vij^s iiij^d."

1546-7. "*Edward Butler* C.W." In 1556, he contributed three perches of the wall round the new churchyard at a cost of 21*s.*; and in 1562 he purchased the "lofte ouer the chancell" (? the sepulchre loft) for 10*s.*

Joan Butler was buried the same year.

1567. Edward Butler gave 10*s.* towards the recasting of Kelsall. This was the largest contribution.

1582-3 "In p^rimis R. for m^{rs} Butler her knill ij^s vj."

1583-4. "R. for m^{rs} Staverton her knill ij^s vj^d."

" Itm. m^r Edward Butler his knill ij^s vj^d."

On different flat stones are the following inscriptions:

“ John Eade, born April y^e 30, 1715,
died April y^e 11, 1716.

των τῶν ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν 0ε8.”

“ Thomas Addams, M.D.
departed this life 26 April, 1785.
He was a most tender husband
an affectionate father, and a
sincere friend.

Rebecca Addams, wife of Dr. Addams,
departed this life 28 Dec. 1778.

Rebecca Addams sister to Dr Addams
departed this life 8 April 1769.

Arms—Quarterly Argent and Vairy : over all a bend
dexter with a crescent for difference.”

On a black marble gravestone :

“ Here lieth the body of Thomas
Constable, who departed this
life March the 2nd, 1719, aged 64.
Here also lieth the body of Catherine
Constable his wife who departed
this life, the 16th of September 1720,
aged 63.”

On a black stone :

“ Here lieth interred the body
of M^r Peter Burningham of London
merchant, who departed
this life the first day of June
anno Domini 1689,
aged 41 years.”

(The foot of this memorial is covered by the new
altar steps.)

On a black stone :

“ Here lieth the body of M^r John Knight
linen-draper, late of Reading, who departed
this life the 25th of July, 1714,
aged 58 years. And by him his father and
mother and five sisters lie.”



{ From Reading Church's
published in 1802.

Verumby huc donec et sic ostendat conat?
ut singt ponat: poutat omnis hanc?
Quidquid ens qui vultat fca ptege ptege?
Sunt quod eis fura qd es p me ptege ora
huc iact dñs solus audet. qui obit dñs
de macti hanc dñi mullina. *et c.*

c Kerry Del.



{ Harl Ms. 965
Anno 1644.

On a flat stone :

“To the memory of Mrs Anne Moulton
who died June 2, 1750.”

“Here lieth the body of Mrs Elizabeth Dudley
the daughter of William Dudley Esq. of
Aldersgate Street London. She died Sep-
tember the 27th anno Domini 1652.”

On a gravestone (now near the stalls on the north side of the chancel—C.K.) is the figure of a priest in his vestments, on a brass plate, and at his feet these lines :—

Vermibz hic donor: et sic ostendere coner
Ut sicut ponor: ponitur omnis honor.
Quisquis eris qui transieris sta perlege plora
Sum quod eris fuerā q'd es p me p'cor ora.
Hic jacet dñs Johēs Andrew qui obiit Tercio
die Martii Anno dñi Millm CCCC xxviij.

(In the inventory of 1517 is the following entry :—“ In p^rmis an antipher w^t full legend of the gifte of S^r John Andrewe sū tyme vicar ther the ij^{te} lese begynnyng [patri et filio].” In the previous inventory of 1503, after the words “w^t full legend,” occurs—“To lye before the vicare.”—See *List of Vicars*.)

Capt. Symonds states that this monument adjoined the slab of William Goldore and John Sampford in 1644. He also gives a sketch of the *shield*, which has long been missing—viz., ‘a cross saltire,’ drawn as though there had been a *chief* on the shield. Burke, in his “Armory,” gives the arms of Andrewes (of London), “Ar. a saltire az., on a *chief* gu. three mullets or.”

The inscription only remains. There is apparently an excellent copy of the *effigy* in “Views of Reading Abbey,” vol. i. p. 44, edit. 1805.

On the side of the chancel, over the priests’ door, is a marble monument, on which, under an arch surmounted

by a pediment, which is supported by four pillars of the Corinthian order, is a female figure kneeling at a desk with this inscription :—

IN A VAULT
 (FOR WHICH A FACULTY WAS PROCURED)
 TEN FEET FROM THE SOUTH WALL AND TWENTY-FIVE
 FEET FROM THE EAST WALL OF THIS CHANCEL,
 LIES INTERRED
 ANNE HAYDON,
 WIFE OF GIDEON HAYDON ESQ.
 A GENEROUS RELATION,
 A SINCERE FRIEND,
 AND A GOOD CHRISTIAN.
 SHE GAVE IN HER LIFE TIME 120*l*.
 TO THE VICAR OF THIS PARISH ;
 THREE FIFTHS OF THE INTEREST AS A YEARLY RENT
 FOR THE VAULT ;
 AND TWO FIFTHS TO BE LAID OUT YEARLY (IF NEED BE)
 IN REPAIRING THE VAULT AND THIS MONUMENT
 FOR EVER.

OB. 15TH OCT. 1747, *ÆT.* 61.

Arms—Argt. three bars gemelles azure ; on a chief or,
 a fesse dancette gules : impaling, argt. on a bend
 azure, three dolphins embowed, or.

(The vault containing the remains of Mrs. Anne Haydon
 is marked by a large slab of black marble, bearing the fol-
 lowing inscription :

“ Under this stone
 lie two sisters
 MARY WATERMAN
 Relict of WILLIAM WATERMAN *Esq.*
 Ob. 6 Mar. 1736, *Æt.* 61.

And also
 ANNE HAYDON
 Wife of GIDEON HAYDON *Esq.*
 Ob. 15 Oct. 1747. *Æt.* 61.”

Above this inscription are two shields of arms—
 those of Haydon, above mentioned, and of Waterman,
viz. :—

“ Paly of six, argt and gules, three crescents counter-
 changed ; impaling argt on a bend azure, three dol-
 phins embowed, or.”)

On a white marble tablet :

“ Thomas Shute, D.D.
Vicar of this parish, died Aug. 19, 1763,
aged 56 years.”

(During his time, in 1748, the old ring was recast, and the number increased from eight to ten. His name was inscribed on the sixth, recently recast (see *Bells*). His monument is now on the north wall within the vestry.)

In the south wall of the chancel is a monument, on which are the figures of a man and woman kneeling at a desk ; behind the man are three sons ; and behind the woman, six daughters. Beneath are these verses :—

QUAM FUERAT VITA CHARUS, QUAM MORTE LYDALLUS
NARRET PASTOR, PLEBS, PAUPER, ET ISTA DOMUS.
ISTA DOMUS TESTIS PIETATIS, PAUPER AMORIS,
PLEBS OPERUM, FIDEI PASTOR, IN HISQUE DEUS.
HANC LECTOR BENE QUI NOVIT FOBOLEMQUE, VIRUMQUE
SÆPE HOS, AUT SIMILES, EDIDIT ORE SONOS
O TER FÆLICEM MATREMQUE PATREMQUE PROPAGO,
CUI TALI EX TALI CONJUGE TALIS ERAT.

At the foot of the monument is this epitaph :

EST HOC CANDIDE INSPECTOR THOMÆ LYDALL
GENEROSI, MAJORATUM APUD REDINGENSES TER
PERFUNCTI (QUI DOMUS HUIUS SACRÆ CONCION-
ATORIS PAUPERUMQUE AUXIT REDITUS) ET MAR-
GERIÆ UXORIS ET LIBERORUM PIE CONSECRATUM
MEMORIÆ MONUMENTUM.

(In 1644 this monument was *over* the chancel door.

The shields on the arches above the two principal figures would seem to have been misplaced at the removal of the monument ; for the arms of Lydall, “ Azure, a saltire or : on a fesse of the last three torteaux,” are over the wife, and a shield presumably hers—viz., “ Arg^t, three crosses pomee fitchee, and a chief sable,” appears over the head of Lydall.

Jane, daughter of M^r Thomas Lydall, was married to M^r William Kendrick, whose monument is in the chancel of St. Mary's in this town.

Thomas Lydall by will, dated Mar. 6, 1606, bequeathed

the sum of 20s. yearly to the church, whereof 10s. for the repairs of the church, seats, and bells, and 10s. to be paid to the vicar.
He died in 1608.)

In the same wall is another monument where is the figure of a woman kneeling at a desk : at the top is a hand holding a wreath of laurel, and under the figure is the following inscription :—

MARTHA, UXOR CAROLI HAMLEY
CORNUB. HIC JACET SEPULTA. FILIA ERAT THOMÆ
SEAKES DE HENLEY SUPER THAMES IN COMIT.
OXONIÆ, QUI OBIT DECIMO SEXTO DIE MENSIS
JANUARIJ AN. DNI 1636. HOC MONUMENTUM
STRUXIT EJUS MARITUS CAROLUS AD CONSER-
VENDAM EIUS MEMORIAM, QUÆ LIBEROS NULLOS
POST SE RELIQUIT PRÆSEPTIM VERO IN TESTI-
MONIUM SUMMÆ DILECTIONIS.

On a tablet of white marble :

“ In this chancel are deposited
the remains of Joseph Radcliffe
of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law
who departed this life, the 27th day of
July 1760, aged 64 years.
And of Mary his wife
a descendant of the family of
Sir Thomas Button of Cotterel in
the county of Glamorgan,
eminent for her true piety,
who died the first day of December
1758, aged 65 years.”
(On the north wall in the vestry.)

On a white marble monument placed in a recess in the south wall is this inscription :

“ Sacred to the Memory
of William Douglas, batchelor
an honest man, and an eminent conveyancer :
remarkable for his
zeal for his king, love for his country,

duty to parents, generosity to relations,
sincerity to friends, integrity to clients,
benevolence to the distressed, love to all men.

So great his patience,
y^t he bore the acute pains
of y^e gout for forty y^{rs}
with thankfulness.
So good his judgment,
that he never made
in all his practice
any one material error,
nor lost one sum
entrusted to his care.

So generous his soul,
that to educate and maintain
all his relations
was his chief pleasure.
So chearful his temper,
that his conversation
was coveted by all.
Now, blest of God,
enjoy thou the reward
of true Christian charity.

D. Jan. 30, 1732 A. 70.

W. Boudry, Nephew, P.

(This memorial to this most exemplary person is now
in the tower.)

On a white marble tablet :

“ In memory of
Mrs. Mary Love
who died
Sept. 27, 1777.”

(She bequeathed the sum of 300*l.* in money to the
corporation of Reading, with which was purchased
377*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* “ New Four per Cents.” which in 1786
realized 15*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* per annum ; on condition that
after the repairs of her monument, the annual
surplus should be distributed in bread and money
among such poor who did not receive relief from
the parish.)

Near the pulpit is a monument which has the figure of
a man to the middle under an arch, holding one hand on a
globe, the other on a quadrant. He is habited in a short
cloak and ruff, surrounded with books on each side of him.
On one side is a female figure holding a cube in her hand
as offering it to him ; and under her feet is the word
‘CUBUS.’ On the other side is another female figure,
offering in the same manner ; and under her ‘TETRA-
HEDRON.’ On the top of the monument are two reclining
figures inscribed ‘OCTAHEDRON,’ ‘DODICADRON,’ and
between them is a figure, now defaced, resembling a
Minerva inscribed ‘ISOSEDRON.’ these are the names of
the five regular solids in geometry.

Beneath the whole is this inscription in an oval :

“JOHANNES BLAGRAVUS
TOTUS MATHEMATICUS
CUM MATRE SEPULTUS.

HERE LIES THE CORPES, WHICH LIVING HAD A SPIRIT,
WHEREIN MUCH WORTHY KNOWLEDGE DID INHERIT;
BY WHICH WITH ZEALE OVR GOD HE DID ADORE;
LEFT FOR MAIDSERVANTS, AND TO FEED THE POORE.
HIS VERTUOUS MOTHER CAME OF WORTHIE RACE,
A HVNGERFORD, AND BURIED NEARE THIS PLACE.
WHEN GOD SENT DEATH THEIR LIVES AWAY TO CALL,
THEY LIVED BELOV'D, AND DIED BEWAIL'D OF ALL.

DECEASED THE 9TH OF AUGUST
ANNO D'NI. 1611.”

The ancestor of this family was Ralph Blaggrave, a lawyer, of Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, whose second son, Robert, settled in London and married Anne Pyke, the daughter of a gentleman in Surrey, by whom he had John Blaggrave, of Bulmarsh, who married Anne, daughter of Sir Anthony Hungerford, of Downe Amney, in the county of Gloucester.

This John had four sons : Anthony, who married Jane Borlase ; John, the mathematician, the subject of this memorial ; Edward, and Alexander, the chess-player, a yeoman of the guard.

The mathematician is supposed to have been born in Reading, but in what year is not known. In 1585 he published “The Mathematical Jewel—Margarita Mathematica per Johannem Blagravum Readingensem, conditum, editum et sculptum”—a folio—“Imprinted at London by Walter Venge, dwelling in Fleet Lane, over against the Maidenhead.” He likewise published “Baculum Familiare Catholicon sive Generale—A Booke of a Staffe newly invented by the Author, called the Familiar Staffe ; as well for that it may be made familiarlie to walk with, as for that it performeth the geometrical mensurations. Newlie compiled and at this time published for the speciall helpe of shooting in great ordinance, and may as well be employed for measuring of land. By John Blaggrave of Reading, gent. 1590, 4to.” Dedicated to Sir Francis Knolles. The last work he published was “The Art of Dialling, in two parts.” London 1609. 4to.

It is not known whom he married. The lady was pro-

bably a widow, as her daughter is called in his will "My wife's daughter Jane." He died at his own house at Southcot, August 9, 1611, and was buried at St. Lawrence's Church, near his mother.

By his will he bequeathed to Joseph Blagrove and his heirs for ever, a messuage or mansion house in Swallowfield, with all his lands in Swallowfield, Eversley, and Reading, *in trust*, to pay on Good Friday in every year to the Mayor and Corporation of Reading the sum of 10*l.*, to be bestowed as follows:—"Twenty nobles of the 10*l.* to some one poor maiden servant that hath served, dwelled, and continued in any one service in any of the three parishes in Reading, in good name and fame, the full term of five years at the least, for her help and performance in marriage, but every fifth year the maid to be chosen from Southcot. Also 10*s.* to the parson of St. Lawrence for his sermon on Good Friday, and that after sermon, there be 20*s.* given to the poorest householders in the said parish of St. Lawrence who shall accompany that maid to whose lot the 20 nobles fell to her dwelling house. Also 3*s.* 4*d.* to the ringers: Also 20*s.* parcel of the 10*l.* to 60 poor people of St. Mary's parish, and 6*s.* to 24 poor of St. Giles'. Lastly, the clerk of St. Lawrence's, and the youngest churchwarden, to have 3*s.* 4*d.* apiece to join with the minister, by direction of the mayor in the distribution of the 10*l.*"

By a codicil annexed, the testator declares his intention that the mayor and corporation should reserve 200*l.* arising out of several rent-charges before given them, during several leases, to be employed in purchasing and pulling down the middle row of houses between the "Pump" and the "Cage," in order to enlarge the market-place. Then at the end of another seven years the corporation was to receive another hundred pounds of the rents and profits of the lands mentioned in the will, to "buyld a very faire walk under the south side of St. Lawrence's Church in Reading, ten foot broad at the least, and in length from the *church porch* to the west end of the belfry."

In the year 1613 the 200*l.* were applied in removing the tenements in the market-place; and in 1620 the church walk was built, which cost 28*l.* 19*s.* more than the 180*l.* which he had left for that purpose. (Coates' "Reading.")

One of the houses removed from the market-place in accordance with Mr. Blagrove's bequest belonged to the

church, and at a meeting convened on the 2nd August, 1612, it was decided that the mayor and corporation should erect another house in the parish for the church, "with brick chimney and lofts as habitable, and of the same value to the church as the one to be taken down."

On a white marble monument :

"To the Memory of
Charles Fanshawe, Esq.
Rear Admiral,
who died February 16,
1757,
Aged 57 years."

(Now in the tower.)

On a white marble tablet :

"Near this place
are deposited the remains of
ROBERT WALSHAM, Esq., who died Nov. the 11th, 1791,
Aged 72.

Also of
ANNA WALSHAM, who died Sept. the 16th, 1792,
Aged 74.

To the memory
of their truly honoured and beloved Parents
this grateful Tribute
was placed here by their children,
Anno 1797."

On a white stone near the belfry :

"In memory of
William Spencer
late organist of this parish
who died April 3^d 1782,
Aged 58 years."

(In the tower.)

On a white marble tablet against the north wall :

“ Hic
 ubi excessit e vivis,
 requiescere voluit
 quod mortale fuit
 GULIELMUS KEATE
 de Wellia
 in agro Somerset, M.D.
 Probitate
 ut annis venerabilis ;
 Ob. Sept. 10. A.S. 1790.
 Ætat. 81.”

IN THE SOUTH AISLE,

On different flat stones, are the following inscriptions :

“ Here lieth the body of Elizabeth, the wife of Captain George Purdon, daughter of the Rev^d D^r Samuel Bishop and Penelope his wife, who departed this life the 11th day of Sept. 1708, aged 29 years ; as also three of her children ; viz. Penelope, Samuel, and Alicia Purdon : as also the above mentioned Penelope Bishop, widow. Ob. 9th Jan. 1716, ætat. 71.”

“ Near this stone, in a vault 8ft. by 4, situated 11 feet from the south wall, lyeth the body of M^{rs} Jane Whiting, who departed this life April 10th, 1745. Here also lies M^{rs} Mary Love, who had a faculty for this vault ; and died Sept. 27, 1777.”
 (Now in the tower.)

“ Here lie the bodies of two maiden sisters ; M^{rs} Elizabeth Reeves, aged 58, who died in S^t Mary's Parish, Oct. 23. 1743 ; M^{rs} Margaret Reeves aged 55, who died at Caversham the . . . day of January following.”

“ Here lieth the body of M^r Benjamin Pocock Surgeon and Apothecary of this parish, who departed this life July 11, 1755, aged 33 years.

This modest stone, what few vain marbles can,
 May truly say, ‘ Here lies an honest man.’ ”

"Here lies the body of M^{rs} Elizabeth Milbourne the daughter of Captain Milbourne and Elizabeth his wife, who died Jan. 10, aged 12 weeks and 14 days."

On a black marble gravestone :

"To the memory of
M^r John Wilcock Druggist,
who exchanged this life for a better
April 24, 1776
aged 62.

Also of M^{rs} Mary Wilcock
wife of the abovementioned
who departed this life
March 8, 1777,
in full assurance
of a blessed immortality
aged 61.

Likewise to the memory of
Mary Marshall,
niece of the above M^{rs} Mary Wilcock
who died May 7, 1787
aged 27."

"Here lieth the body of Richard Piggot, son of Richard and Hannah, who departed this life May 30, 1703," &c. (defaced).

"To the memory of M^{rs} Sarah Elkins, relict of M^r Robert Elkins of London, who after a well spent life here, exchanged it in hopes of a better on the 22^d of June 1774 in the 85th year of her age."
(Now in the S.W. *angle* of the tower.)

"In memory of M^r French, Chymist of this parish, who died June 5th, 1770, aged 30.

"Also George Peter French, son of the above, who died January 8th 1783 aged 13 years."

"Here lieth the body of Joseph Irving who departed this life Jan. 13th 1773 aged . . . years."

"John Rowland died Jan. 4th 1784, aged 74 years."

"In memory of M^r Thomas Garrard who died February 7th, 1773, aged 50 years."

"Also of his son George Garrard, who died the 11th of Dec. in the 17th year of his age."

(Now in the tower, almost obliterated.)

"In memory of M^r Peter Hansell, who died March 13th, 1772, aged 65 years."

"Sacred to the memory of M^r Simmoneau Pine, of Bath, whose virtues, and spirit to exert them, gained him the love of all who knew him. He died at Reading 23rd of August 1772, aged 49."

BETWEEN THE AISLES.

"In memory of Thomas Sentence who died April 9th 1781, aged 12 years."

IN THE NORTH AISLE

are several flat stones with the following inscriptions:—

"Here lieth the body of Thomas Awberry. He died May 20th 1741, aged 69 years."

"Near this place lieth Elizabeth his wife and 6 of their children."

(This stone now lies under the north arch of the tower). Coates writes (1802):—"This epitaph now appears on a large flat stone on which were figures of a man and woman: and *near it* is another stone on which were the figures of a man and woman, with several small inscriptions, and in each corner an escutcheon of arms."—This latter the author believes to have been the memorial of Thomas Clarke, Hosier, c. 1475.)

" Thomas Flory died April 25, 1736, aged 3 years and 2 monthls.

" Thomas and William Flory, twins ; William died June the 5th, and Thomas died the 7th, 1741.

" Thomas Flory died Nov. 13, 1746.

" In memory of Deborah Flory, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Florey, who died March 22, 1763, aged 20 years. Also Elizabeth Flory wife of Thomas Flory, who died March 20, 1780, in the 76th year of her age. Likewise the said Thomas Flory, who died Dec. 7th 1780, in the 78th year of his age."

" In memory of M^r William Halifax, late of this Parish, Surgeon, who died May 9th 1756, aged 35.

" Also of M^r Thomas Halifax who died March 3, 1789, aged 62 years.

" Likewise of Margaret Halifax, daughter of Thomas Halifax, who died October 13, 1789, aged 25 years."

" Here lie the remains of Mary Pitman, wife of Edward Pitman of London who departed this life March 24th 1773, aged 46 years."—Amos iv. 12.

" In memory of John Aris, gent. Died Jan. 19th 1790, aged 81 years."

" Also of M^{rs} Mary Johnston. Died June 5, 1791, aged 63 years."

" M^{rs} Anne Jacob died May the 2nd 1797, aged 77 years."

" In memory of M^r James Quarrington, who was Mayor of this Corporation. He died A.D. 1714. Also Anne his wife, died A.D. 1758. Likewise in memory of M^r Thomas Rootes, he died A.D. 1754. Susannah the wife of the above Thomas Rootes died the 5th day of June, 1763, aged 63 years."

"Here lie the remains of Elizabeth the wife of J. Hooper, Surgeon, of this Parish, who died Jan. 20, 1761, aged 31."

"Robertus Robinson, ob. 29 Mar. 1776. Æt. 41.
John Cole. John Godfrey."

"Kitty White died March 9th 1765, aged 10 months.
Harriet White died Jan. 24th 1773, aged 19 months."

"John Hocker died Jan 25, 1737, aged 4 years and a half. Thomas Hocker died Oct. 3rd 1737, aged 8 weeks."

(In the tower.)

"John Colly died May 1743 aged two years and three months."

"Here lieth the body of M^{rs} Anne Pedley widow. She departed this life the 2nd Dec. 1788, aged 53 years."
(In the tower on N. side of doorway.)

"Here lieth the body of Mary Godfrey daughter of Blgrave of Bulmarsh Esq. by Elizabeth his wife, and relict of M^r John Godfrey, citizen of London. Also her son and daughter, John and Elizabeth. She died June 13, 1738, aged 55 years: her son, Jan. 3, 1738, aged 22 years: and her daughter in March 1736, aged 18 years."

THE FOLLOWING INSCRIPTIONS WERE REMAINING AT
THE TIME OF ASHMOLE'S VISITATION :

On a marble gravestone :

"Orate pro animabus Johannis Rectoris de Erle, et
Johannis Cerne, vicarii Sancti Laurentii de
Hadding, et omnium fidelium defunctorum."

(This brass is lost.)

Inventory of 1517—"It. a nother Antiphoner w^t full legend of the gifte of S^r John Serne sū tyme vicar ther, the ij^{de} lefe begynnyng [sacerdos ponat.]"

"It. a chesible w^t thapp'ell of red silk suspend w^t tres (letters) of gold **T** & **S** of the gifte of John Serne."

(See *Vicars*.)

On a marble gravestone in the chancel :

"*Hic jacet Johannes Kent quondam Burgensis de Reding: et Johanna uxor eius. Quorum animabus propicietur Deus. Amen.*"

"It. a cope of cloth of bawdekyn w^t birdis & floures of gold of the gift of John Kent."

"It. a sewte of red cloth of bawdekyn w^t birds & floures of gold, of the gift of John Kent."
(Inventory, 1517.)

In 1410 he gave 13s. towards the re-roofing of the church. He died about the year 1415.

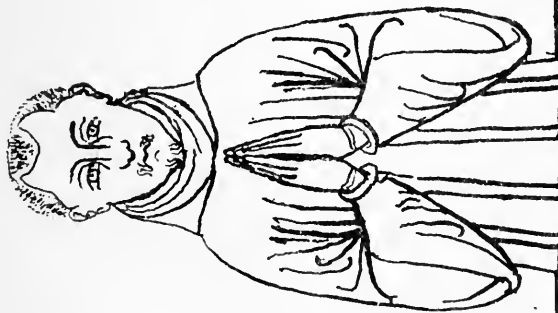
Mr. F. J. Baigent in his article on "Sheriffs' Seals," in the "Herald and Genealogist," states that "This John Kent occurs as plaintiff in an action in the borough court of the City of Winchester held 20 Jan, 1405-6." "Johannes Kent de Redyng, *Mercer*, quærens."

He supposes him to have been the grandfather of the boy commemorated by a small brass in the chancel of Headborne Worthy Church, near Winchester, thus inscribed—

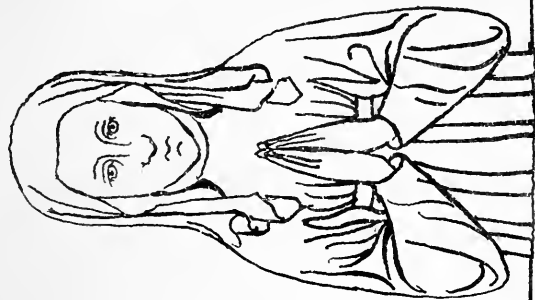
"*Hic jacet Johannes Kent quondam Scholaris
Nobi Collegii de Wynechestre & filius Simonis
Kent de Redynge cujus anime propicietur Deus.*"

He was admitted as a scholar on the 23 Aug. 1432, and died Aug. 31, 1435.

Simon Kent was mayor of Reading in 1430. In 1451 he sued John Kyrkeby "maryner" of Southampton for a debt of 8*l*. This can hardly be the John Kyrkby who was mayor of Reading in 1427, 1429, 1432 and 1434, and whose name occurs among the subscribers to the church in 1440.



C. Kerry - Del.



Hic iacent Joſeph Rext quondam Buxgenſis de Radſing et
Johanna ſux rux. Quorū animas precetur deus Amen 2

Nicholas Kent was C.W. in 1501; his wife, Joan, died 1503.

John Kent's father (?Nicholas) died 1508, and his wife 1509. He was C.W. in 1515.

Symonds thus describes this monument—

"A flat stone on the north side of the chancel: the two demy pictures of a man & woman: old text."

This brass has been recently taken from the floor and attached to the south wall of the chancel for its better preservation. The almost defaced portions of the engraving have been restored under the author's supervision.

On a brass plate fixed in a gravestone:

"Here lieth buried the body of Richard Cooke, Burgess of Reading; and the bodies of Julian his wife, and Edward his son; the said Richard being buried January 28, 1587."

(Lost.)

On a brass plate fixed in a gravestone:

"Here lieth Master Nicholas More sometime Master of Arts, and late Vicar of the parish church of St. Laurence; the which deceased the last day of January, in the yeare of our Lord God M.cccc.lxxvij."

(Lost. See *List of Vicars*.)

On a brass plate fixed in a gravestone under the figure of an ecclesiastic in his habit:

"Pray for the soul of Mr Richard Wylock, Master in Arts, late fellow of New College, in Oxford, who deceased the fourth day of April the year of our Lord 1504."

(William Wylock was one of the subscribers to the restoration of the tower in 1458.

1504-5. "It. rec. of John Wylcox at the burying of
M. Richard his son for the grete bell xij^d."

"It. for wast of torchis the same tyme ij^s."

"It. rec. of John Wylcox at the month mynde of
M. Ric' his son for the grete bell xij^d."

1507-8. "It. rec. for John Wylcox grave & for leying
of the stone on þ^e same grave vij^s vj^d."

This John was a "chaundler and ffishemonger," and a
member of the "Mass of Jesus."—See *Will of Kelsall*.

1507-8. "It. payed for the leying of the m^oble stone on
the grave of John Wylcox & for removing of a
noþ^r m^oble stone & for the leying of þ^e stone
on Sir John Styrys xx^d."

1510-11. "It. rec. for the g^uve of Harry Wylcox &c.
vij^s ij^d."

His wife died the same year.

1517. Inventory. "It. a cope of white Damask tissue wth
orfrey of crymysyn tissue of the gifte of Christian
Wilcox."

1515-6. "It. rec. for the grave of Christian Wilcox
vj^s viij^d."

"It. rec. for the grete bell for the same xij^d."

"It. rec. for the couling of the same grave vj^d."

(This brass is unfortunately lost.)

On another plate, under the figure of an ecclesiastic :

"*Hic jacet Dominus Willielmus Goldore quondam
bicarius Sancti Laurentii de Redyng: et Dominus
Johannes Sampford, quondam bicarius Sancti
Egidii: qui quidem Willielmus obiit penultimus
die mensis Maij anno Dñi M.CCCC.Lxiiij.*"

Capt. Symonds, in 1644, thus describes this memorial :—
"A small stone neare the south dore of the chancel wth
2 pictures, *ut supra*."

(This brass is also lost.)

On a plate fixed in a gravestone lying near the south
entrance into the chancel was this inscription :—

En Thomas Justice quondam qui rexerat istud
 Templum, sub gelido conditur hoc tumulo.
 Dum vixit, Christi cultor fuit optimus ille,
 Sacri mysterii verus amator erat.
 Cujus nunc animo concedas Christe Redemptor
 Molliter in gremio posse latere tuo.
 Hic die Januarii 12, Ao 1535
 diem clausit extremum."

(Lost. See *Altars and Wills*.)

"On a large flat stone in y^e church *next the chancel, in the middle yle*, the picture of a man between 2 women." (Symonds, 1644.) Of the position of this same monument, Ashmole writes, "In the upper end of the *body of the church* near the entrance into the north side of the chancell, on a brass plate fixed in a gravestone was the following inscription:—

(It must have lain close to the *north pier* of the chancel arch.—C. K.)

"Hic iacent Willms Hunt quondam Maior Ville de Redyng et Alicia et Isabella uxores* eius Qui quidem Willms obiit vj die mensis Octobris Anno Domini Millesimo* CCC^olxiiij^o Quorum Animabus propicietur deus. Amen."

(This inscription was remaining in 1860, when the author took a rubbing of it. It has since been abstracted. The above inscription has been carefully copied from the fac-simile then taken: it is contained in three lines: the asterisks mark their termination. The old ledger of grey marble, showing the matrices of a man between his two wives with an inscription beneath their feet, now lies under the eastern arch of the tower. In the centre of the upper part of the slab is a *quadrangular* matrix measuring about six inches by five. There are indications of a corresponding one near the bottom of the stone.

William Hunt was one of the principal subscribers to the

work done to the church in 1440-1. His gift is entered thus :—

“Et de vj^s viij^d r. de dono Wittⁱ Hunt.”

He was Mayor of Reading in 1436, 1437, and 1446.

On the south side of Edward Butler's monument on a brass plate fixed in a marble gravestone :

“Here lyeth Sybbel Staberton wyfe of Thomas Staberton, Gent, who lived here on earth in honest lyfe, and in good fame, and made a most goodly and faithful end, who departed this lyfe the 14th of December Anno 1583.”

(Lost.)

On a brass plate in a gravestone in the body of the church :

“Hic jacet Willielmus Stonor quondam Burgen
qui obiit 4^{to} die Mensis Januarii Anno Dñi
M.CCCC”

(Lost.)

Of this memorial Symonds writes :

“Upon a large flat stone inlayed wth brasse the 2 small pictures worne & taken away, this inscription—though almost worne away. . . . This is in the middle yle of the church.”

“There are divers more flat stones adjoyning, but y^e brasses are stoolne away when y^e Roundheads possessed the Towne 1643.”

Modern Memorials

Erected since the publication of Mr. Coates'
“History of Reading.”

On the east wall of St. John's Chapel, within a quasi-Gothic frame of freestone :

“Sophia, the only child of James Tompson Esq of Peterborough wife for 52 years of Thomas Ring Esq M.D., Born Nov. 3 1768. Married Nov. 26, 1787, died May 17 1848 in her 80th year.”

Near this, but on the north wall, is a large memorial to Thomas Ring, M.D., stating that he was born at Basingstoke, Feb. 3rd, 1761, and that he exercised his profession for 50 years. He was one of the founders and principal supporters of St. Mary's Chapel, and essentially contributed to the establishment of the Reading Dispensary and the Royal Berks Hospital. He died 27th June, 1840.

A little to the west of this, on a white marble slab within a Gothic frame of freestone :

“To the Memory of
the Rev^d John Ball, B.D.
Vicar of this parish
presented to the living by
St. John's College, Oxford.
Died Dec. 17, 1865, aged 66.
This tablet is erected by
parishioners and other friends in
grateful recognition of the value
of his faithful testimony as a
minister of Christ, while Vicar of
this parish for more than 30 years.”
Heb. ii. 10.

On a brass plate beneath the former :

“To the Glory of God and
in loving memory of
the Reverend Peter French, M.A.
for 47 years Vicar of the Parish of
the Holy Trinity, Burton on Trent,
who died at Reading, Feb. 14, 1878,
aged 78.

In this church of St. Lawrence he was
married, and here received his last Communion
upon the occasion of the Mission.

Feb. 12, 1878.”
Psalm lxxiii. 23.


On the respond of the arcade within St. John's Chapel in the S.E. corner :

“ Sacred
to the memory of
William Wise, D.D.
for twenty one years
the resident Vicar of this Parish,
and
fifteen years minister of Hurst,
where his mortal remains are deposited.
He died 14 October 1833,
aged 64 years.”

“ Sacred to the memory of Katherine, wife of Henry Deane, Esq., who died 21 Nov. 1836, aged 60 years. Also Henry Deane, Esq., who died 13 Dec. 1855, aged 75 years.”

The vault is 5 ft. on the north side of the communion rails.

On a brass plate on the south wall of the chancel :

“ In memoriam

John Moss
for 40 years a member of this choir,
died March 25, 1880,
aged 73 years.
‘ Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house.’ ”

On a brass plate, formerly fastened to the floor of the south stalls in the choir, and designed to mark the resting-place of some whose monuments lay beneath :

REV. W. T. M. WEBSTER
MIRIAM WEBSTER
MARY HUGHES
ELIZABETH ELLY

Attached to the staircase of the tower within the nave is a monument of Caen stone, with a fine effigy, life-size, habited in academical costume, and standing beneath a canopy. Beneath is the following inscription :

" M.S.
 Ricardi Valpy, S.T.P.
 qui
 Scholæ Readingensi
 annos L amplius prefuit, &c.
 In Christo decessit
 Londini
 V. Kal. Apr. M.DCCC. XXXVI
 Ætatis LXXXI.
 et in coemeterio suburbano
 juxta viam Harroviensem
 sepultus est."

MURAL MONUMENTS IN THE NORTH AISLE.

" In a vault on the north side of this church in which
 Elizabeth, relict of the late Joshua Loring, Esq.,
 is buried, lie also the remains of Eliza Loring,
 their only daughter, who died the 24th of
 January, 1860, aged 88."

On a brass plate beneath a window-sill :

" In memory of Richard Prichard Smith M.D. Fellow
 of the Royal College of Physicians, who for many
 years practised in this town, and died Oct. 7, 1867,
 aged 72 years. Of his wife Eliza, daughter of Peter
 Breton, Esq. who died Nov. 19, 1833, aged 45 years.
 And of their children—Arthur who died March 17,
 1844, aged 17 years, and Frederick, Emily, and
 Eliza, who died in infancy. Also of Katherine,
 second wife of the above R. Prichard Smith, and
 daughter of Sir Nathaniel Dukinfield, Bart, who
 died June 27, 1872, aged 83 years."

In the tower, on the floor at the entrance, and nearly obliterated :

" Sacred to the memory of
 Joseph Palmer
 who departed this life
 the 15th of May 1802,
 aged 75 years.

M^{rs} Elizabeth Palmer
 wife of the above,
 who departed this life
 October 17, 1809,
 aged 60 years."

Arms—A lion rampant with three estoils in chief :
 impaling (—?) with a bar in chief. (Not
 mentioned in Burke's "Armory.")

On the south wall of the tower :

IN A VAULT NEAR THIS PLACE
 ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF
 JOHN BLANDY ESQR.
 WHO DIED MAY 28TH, 1821
 AGED 61 YEARS.

ALSO OF
 MARY HIS WIFE
 WHO DIED APRIL 4TH 1802,
 AGED 42 YEARS.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
 ANNE ELIZABETH
 WIFE OF MR WILLIAM BLANDY
 WHO DIED JUNE 9, 1830
 AGED 33 YEARS.

ALSO OF
 MARY
 WIFE OF THE REV. F. J. BLANDY
 WHO DIED JULY 25 1837
 AGED 41 YEARS.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
 RICHARD BINFIELD
 ORGANIST OF THIS CHURCH
 DURING THIRTY FIVE YEARS
 WHO DIED 28TH DECEMBER 1839,
 AGED 73 YEARS.

THE ZEAL AND TALENT WITH WHICH HE DISCHARGED THE
 DUTIES OF ORGANIST, THE AFFECTIONATE CARE WITH
 WHICH HE TRAINED UP A NUMEROUS FAMILY IN THOSE

PATHS OF INDUSTRY AND RELIGION IN WHICH HE HIMSELF DELIGHTED TO WALK, HIS PIETY TOWARDS GOD, HIS BENEVOLENCE TOWARDS HIS FELLOW-CREATURES, AND THE RECTITUDE WHICH MARKED HIS CONDUCT IN ALL THE SOCIAL RELATIONS OF LIFE, PROMPTED HIS NUMEROUS FRIENDS SPONTANEOUSLY TO ERECT THIS TABLET IN TESTIMONY OF THEIR GREAT RESPECT AND ESTEEM FOR HIS MEMORY. HIS REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ADJOINING CHURCHYARD.

On an oval plate of white marble :

"THOMAS WEST Alderman, died 23rd of April 1803, aged 55 years."

"MRS. ELIZABETH HAGGARD died 1st May 1822 aged 61 years."

"MRS. ANNE BLANDY, relict of JOHN BLANDY Esq. and formerly widow of the above named Thomas West died 4th of January 1835 aged 76 years."

"Mary Francis, wife of Capt. M. Andrews only daughter of T. S. Salmon M.D. died at Hastings March 7th 1824. Capt. M. Andrews, of His Majesty's 44 Reg^t died at Llandaur in the East Indies 21 July 1830."

"Martin Annesley Esq. Senior Magistrate of this Borough died 29 June 1822 in his 82nd year."

"Thomas Stokes Salmon M.D. died April 30th 1827."

"Lancelot Austwick Esq. died 22 Feb. 1829 in his 78th year."

"Henrietta Venua died Nov^r 3rd 1824 aged 43 years."
(The stone which covered her grave is now in the vestry.)

Wills.

The Will of Henry Kelsall. 1493.

(Somerset House. Reg. "Vox." fo. 5.)

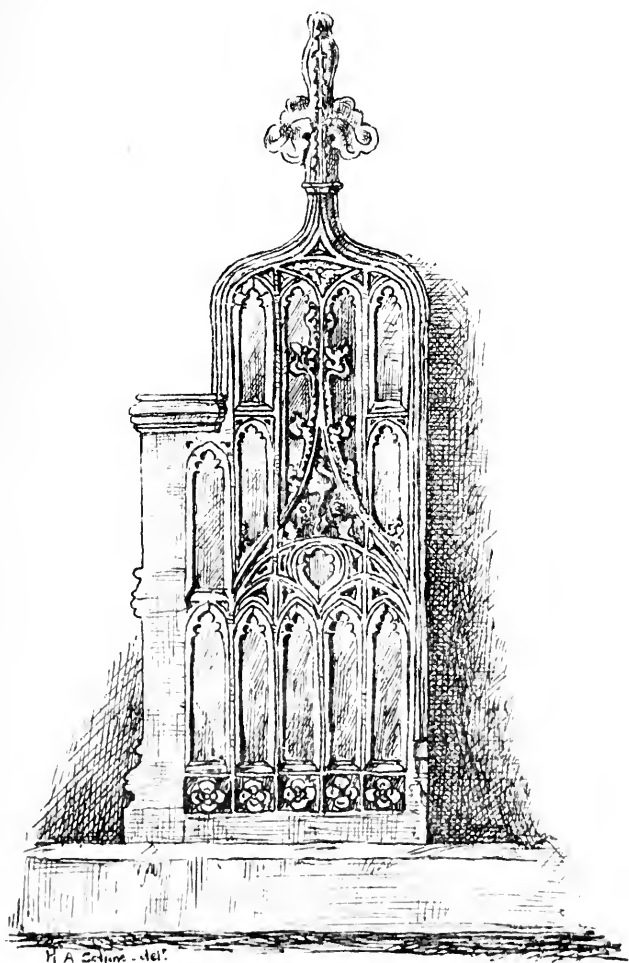
In the Name of God. Amen. The xij daye of the Moneth of Novembr in the yere of oure lorde **Ihu** M.cccc.lxxxxiij, I Henry Kelsall of Redyng of the Dioc. of Sar' Clothyer, hole and sounde the mynde, not being syke the body, and in my last days not knowing seke, make my p'sent testament trypartited in this maner: ffyrst I bequeth my soule to Almighty God and to our Lady saynt Mary and to all the saints of heven, and my body to be buried in the parisshe chirch of Saint Laurence of Reding aforesaid on the North parte of the Awter of **Ihu** ther. Item, I bequith to the Cathedrale chirch of Sar' xij^d. Item, I bequeth to the high Awter of Saint Laurence chirch aforesaid for forgotten Tythis, and evyll tythed xiiij^s iij^d. Item, I bequeth to the operacions of the saide chirch xx^s. Item, I bequethe to the operacions of the chirch of sainte Marys in Redyng aforesaid xx^s. Item, I bequeth to the operacions of saynt Gylys chirch there xx^e. Item, I bequeth to the ffriers Minours there, xx^s. Item, I give to Thomas Kelsall my brother all that same my landis and teñtis Rentis Reversions and sⁱjuices with all thaier appurten^ances sette and lying w^tin the Burgh of Reding forsaid. And also all that same my two teñtis with thaier app^tten^ances sette and lying in the Town of Southampton which teñtis w^t thaier app^tten^ances late were of Thomas Payne of the saide Town of Southampton, and after, of Roger Kelsall, Brother of me the said Henry, and now been myn the saide Henry: and in oon of the same ij teñtis now dwellyth oon John Bawdewyn, and in that other teñt now dwellyth in oon Thomas Crassewell. Also all that same my lands and teñtis Rents rev'sions and sⁱjuices medows pastures and lesures w^t thaier app^ttenaunces sette and lying in the Ile of Wyght in the Countie of Southampton in the parisshe of Whyppyngham there. And also all that same my grove or wood lying in the Countie of Southampton w^t his app^tten^ances in the parisshe of Bramley in the saide countie

called Stertwood there. To be had and to be holde all the foresaide Lands and teñtis &c. . . . to the saide Thomas Kelsall and to the heyres males of his body lawfully begotten," &c. (Then he appoints that if Thomas die without issue the real estate should go to the next heir male of the kindred of the said Thomas, but should this utterly fail, then he wills that the said lands and tenements) "holy shall remayne to the x personys as underwritten and named maynteners and susteyners of thaier devocion of the Masse of Ihu kept and songen in the parrishe chirch of Saynte Laurence in Reading aforesaide: that is to say now in the firste Richarde Cleche, draper, John Baxtster, tanner, John Langham, iremonger, Stephen Dunster, draper, Rauff Myllington, clothyer, William Tru yoman, John Wylcokks, chaundler, and ffisshemonger, and William Scochon, draper, with Richard Smyth gent, and John Twytt oon of the deuocyoners and maynteners atte first of the saide Masse of Ihu. And I myself the said Henry beyng fyrst Mynder Susteyner and Mayntener of my devocyon of the Masse of Ihu as all these forsaid persons wele knowen and vnderstonden. To be had and be hold all the forsaid lands &c. to the x persons forsaid maynteners and susteynors of the Masse of Ihu and to theyre successors, but if any of these now premises and teñtis be allowed to become ruinous then" (he bequeaths them) "to the churchwardens of our Lady Chappell of Knottysford in the Countie of Chesshire and to their successors on condition (under payne of forfeiture) that they shall keep a yerely Obite or anniversary in the parisshe chirche of Sainte Laurence aforesaide for the Sowle of me the said Henry Kelsale, And for the soules of the which I the said Henry am bounde to pray for, and for the sowles of all cristen, to the value of xx^s by the yere as by imperpetuyte. And also by the oversight of the Curatt of the parisshe chirch of Sainte Laurence forsaid, whosoever they be, for the tyme being and that the said curat shall take and have yerely for Dirige and Masses (this truly to be executed and done) xx^d for his labour.

Item, I will and charge that myn Execcutours shall see that I may have a daylye p^oste to sing for me the said Henry Kelsall in the parish chirche of Saint Laurence aforesaid by the space of vij yere than next and immediatly following after my decease, the said p^oste to have for the saide vij yere xl^{li} good and lawful money of

Englond, which xl^{li} shall rest in the hands of the saide x personnys Maynteners and susteners of the Masse of Ihu aforseid. Item, I will and charge that myn executors shall ordeyne a stone to be layd upon me the saide Henry and my wife Agnes in the church of Saint Laurence aforseid to the some of vi^{li} xij^s iiij^d and upon the saide stone by the ouisight of the said x personnys maynteners of the mass of Ihu aforseide A Reson of them to be made upon the same stone such as God will induc them to shewe and sett on. Item, I bequeth to the honoracion and sustentacon of the Masse of Ihu of my pper devocon, two my best Saltsalers of sylver and gilt, the oon coued, and that other not coued, also two my best standing cuppes gilt and coued both. Also my two best Nutts that I have coued and gilted: xij sponys of sylver w^t Wodewoses* vpon the knoppes and gilted; In this intent that the saide plate afore reherced shall not be shewed ne lent out of the Rome of the persons maynteners &c. of the Masse of Ihu, save only alwey the saide plate to be had in honoracon and worshipping of the saide susteyners &c. of the masse of Ihu, and to eu^y of them if nede shall require kepyng there place. Item, I will and charge that if it be so that any of the plate forsaide, any parte or all, any lone of the same to be layd owte of the Rome of the said x persons maynteners &c., and so proved, that than I will that the heires male whomsoever they be of the said Thomas Kelsall holy shall claime again, and recover ageyn to thaier singuler Avayles by this my last will &c. Item, I bequeth to the Operacons of the Chauncell of Saint John of the parisshe chirch of Sainte Laurence forsaide as to make dexts there, and to the selyng of the same chauncell xx^{li}. Item, I bequeth to the chappell of Knottisford aforesaid xl^{li} (to provide a priest to sing his obit for seven years) which x^{li} shall reste in the hands of the forsaide x personnys, maynteners of the Masse of Ihu, and by them to be deluyered. Item, I bequeth to the mending of the way betwene Reding and the Thele xl^s, and for mendyng of the way betwene Reding and Pangbo^rne xl^s, and betwene Reding and Shipping Myll xl^s, and betwene Reding and Burghfield Brigge xl^s, and betwene Reding and Canruende xl^s. Item, I bequethe for

* Wodewoses—*i.e.*, wild men, or monsters.



Strall End. Kelsall's Gifr. anno 1493.



the amending of the wey called the Ort lane next to Redinge xl^s. Item, I bequeth to xl maydens euy of them vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequeth to euy godchild of myne beyng on lyve ij^s. Item, I bequethe to Thomas Grenewey my suant xl^s. Item, I bequeth to Henry Woodhatch my godson x^{li}. Item, I bequethe to the forsaide Thomas Kelsall my brother a payer of Bryganders covered with velvett, a standerd and a salett. Item, I bequethe to C pore men to euy of them a gown of blak fryse p'ce of euy gown ij^s; they to be deluyered by the discrecon of myn executours, and the saide x personnes maynteners of the Masse of Ihu. Item, I bequethe to the chirch of Hendley vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequethe to the chirch of Wokyngham vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequethe to the church of Stratfieldsay vj^s viij. Item, I bequeth to the chirch of Stratfeld Mortemer vj^s viij^d to the church of Burghfelde vj^s viij^d to the church of Tylchurste vj^s viij^d of Selhampstede Abbott vj^s viij^d of Tydmershe vj^s viij^d to the parisshe church of Pangbourne vj^s viij^d of Purley vj^s viij^d of Whitechurch vj^s viij^d of Maplederh^m vj^s viij^d of Causham vj^s viij^s of Shyplake vj^s viij^d of Retherfelde Pypparde vj^s viij^d of Lawrence Waltham vj^s viij^d of Hurste vj^s viij^d of Swallowfelde vj^s viij^d of Sonnyng vj^s viij^d of Shenyingfelde vj^s viij^d of Wargrave vj^s viij^d of Sulham vj^s viij^d of Knottesford xx^s of Rawsthorne vj^s viij^d of Moberley vj^s viij^d of Overpever vj^s viij^d of Netherpever vij viij^d of Newe Chapell in the Strete vj^s viij^d of Lymme vj^s viij^d.

Item, I bequeth to Margarette Bosden my sister xl^s. Item, I bequeth to Mawde Bosden her daughter xl^s. Item, I bequeth to Margarette Bosden sister of the saide Mawde xl^s. Item, I bequeth to euy soon of my brother Thomas Kelsall xl^s. Item, I bequeth to euy daughter of the said Thomas xl^s—to Jonett Swynton my sister xl^s—to Roger Swynton her son xl^s—to John Saunder my servant xl^s—to Johne Broke my servant xl^s. Item, I bequeth to the mariage of Elizabeth Crantmore xl^s. Item, I will and charge that Charlys Kelsall son of my brother Roger Kelsall shall haue xx^{li} of lawful money of England, which xx^{li} was of the bequest of the said Roger his ffather, which money also shall reste in the handes of the x persons

maynteners &c of the Masse of Ihu, into the tyme the said Charles be of the age of xxiiij yere (unless they think he would well dispose it). Item, I will and charge that Elizabeth Kelsall daughter of my saide brother Roger Kelsall and sister of the said Charles shall have xx^{li} which was of the bequest of the said Roger her ffader until she be of age to be married (the survivor of them to have the other's share and in case of the death of both, then the wardens of the Jesus Mass were to apply the 40℥. for the benefit of their souls).

"Item, I will and geve to Thomas Kelsall soon of my saide Brother Roger Kelsall, a place callid the Tower, standing over the Sowth Gate in Hampton aforesaide, w^t a Skelyng without the wall there, and a long celar by the Town wall agenst Goddes howse gate—which Tower, skelyng, and celar, late had the said Roger Kelsall my brother of the dymyssions and grauntes of the Mayer of Southampton and his brethren by lese of Indenture. Item, I bequeth to the Mynchen* of Rumsey, whiche was the daughter of the saide Roger vj marc. Item, I bequeth to the Almeshouses in Redyng which wer of the foundaçon of John of the Larder, to euery of the same howses a couerlette, price of cūy of them ij^s viij^d. Item, to euery of the same howses a pair of Shetis, price of every paier xvj^d. Item, I bequeth to euery of my Cosynnes sonnys and doughters lawfully bigotton, betwene Thomas Madok of Knottesford aforesaide, and Elizabeth my sister nowe being alive, to euery of them xl^s. I will and charge that a Tenour bell to be made according to the iiij bellis that now hange in the stepyll of Saynte Lawrence church of Reding aforseide to the some of (). The scripture to be made aboute the same bell—'Henry. The bell of Ihu.' Item, I bequeth to the sustentation of the forsaide Masse of Ihu as aforesaid xl^{li}. Item, I bequeth to the making of the Gylldhall in Reding when the said hall shall be new bilded xl^s. It. I bequeth to the daughter of William Swynton xl^s. Item, I bequeth to Margery Pastlewe vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequeth to Joan Asshendon vj^s viij^d—to Henry Sadeler vj^s viij^d—to the wif of John Leche, Hatmaker, vj^s viij^d. The residue of all my goodes I will that Thomas Kelsall my brother, and Rauff Whyte of Wokynham whome I make joyntly mynexecutors, that they may as God will give them grac to dispose of the

* Mynchen—i.e., a nun. A. S. Minicen.

said residue to the pleasure of Almighty God, helth unto my sowle, and my frendis sowles, and discharging of their conscience. These witnesses being present, Maister Rauff Hethcote, Richard Cleche, Rauff Myllyngton, and William True, with other at Reding the day and yere abousaide."

Proved at Lambeth some time during the months of January and February 1493-4, which are the dates of the previous and following probates.

The Will of John Pownsar.

(Probate Registry. Reg. "Ayloofe," fo. 1.)

In the Name of God. Amen. The xxviiij Day of June anno Dñi MCCCCxvij.

I John Pownsar of Reading in the Dioc. of Sar. Draper, . . . do make . . . this my last wille &c. I bequeth my soule &c. . . and my body to be buried in the church of saint Laurence in Redyng aforsaid before the awter of Jhus there where convenient place may be had. Item, I bequeth to the Church of Sarum iiij^d. Item, I bequeath to the sustentation and mayntening of the Masse of Jhus in the said church of saint Laurence x^{li}, to be paid in maner and form folowing yf Isabell my wife lyve sole vnmarried and contynue Suster paying yerely vnto the said masse vj^s viij^d, then I will the said x^{li} be paide vnto the Wardeyns of the said masse to the vse of the said Chauntry and masse immediatly after the decesse of the said Isabell my wife, and if it fortune the said Isabell to mary or to leve of the payment of the said vj^s viij^d yerely, then I wil that the said x^{li} be paide vnto the said wardeyns unto the vse of the said Chauntry within ij yeris next and immediatly after, but if it shall fortune her to mary or to leve of the yerely payment of vj^s viij^d, Then I will that a prest being honest and of goode conversaçon synge and say masse for my soule in the said church of Saint Laurence by the space of one hole yere next and immediatly after my decesse, and he to have for his salary x marc. Item, I will that an obite be kept yerely in the said church of Saint Laurence the space of x yeris next and immediatly after my decesse, for my soule and my frendes soules, expending thereon yerely vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequeth to the sustentaçon and maynten^aunce of the masse of our Lady in the said church of

Saint Laurence, vj^s viij^d to every godchild alyve xij^d to William Hayton and Richard Stamp my servaunts, to every of them vj^s viij^d and a hoscloth. Item, I bequeth to Isabell Barfote, Isabell Rose, and to Alice Sparowe my serv^aunts, to every of them vj^s viij^d. I bequeth to Isabell my wife all that my tenement with thappurtenⁿunce sett and lying in the High Strete of Redyng bitwene the two bridgs there, betwene the tenement of John Norris Squyer vpon the south parte, and the teñt of the Abbot and convent of the Monastery of Reding aforsaid vpon the north parte, to have and to hold the same for ever. I bequeth vnto the said Isabel my wife all that teñt sett and lyinge in Reding aforsaid in such place there called Chese Rowe, that is to wit betwene the teñt of John Norris Squyer upon the Est parte, and the teñt of the Abbot and Convent of the mon. of Redyng aforsaid vpon the West parte &c. After the decesse of the said Isabell my wife, I will that the said teñt remayne vnto John Barfote the elder and to Richard his sonne and to the heires of the same Richard lawfully begotten, and for lack of such yssue to John Barfote the elder and of his heires, &c. and for lack of such issue, I will that the said teñt &c. by the Mayor of the Borough of Reding and by the x brethren of the Masse of Jhus of the church of saint Laurence aforsaid be solde (and the proceeds disposed of according to their discretion) "for the welthe of my soule, my wifes soule, and all X^pn soules." (The rest of his goods and debts he leaves to Isabel his wife, whom he appoints his executrix, and John Barfoot the elder, the overseer of his will.)

Witnesses Thomas Justice, Vicar of Saint Laurence aforsaid, Thomas Carpenter and William Edmunds. Proved at Lambeth the 9th December, 1517.

The Will of Thomas Platts.

(Somerset House. Reg. "Blamyr," fo. 11.)

(Orig. in Latin, dated 24 August, 1522.)

In Dei n'oiē. Amen. I Thomas Platts of Reading in the Dioc. of Salisbury of sound mind &c. do make my last will &c. in this manner. First I give my soul to Almighty God and to the Blessed V. Mary His mother,

and to all saints, and my body to be buried in the church of Saint Lawrence in Reading "in edicula Sancti Johannis Baptiste." I give to the mother church of Salisbury 4^d. It. I bequeath to the High Altar of the said church of St. Lawrence for tithes and oblations forgotten, and to pray for my soul 3^s 4^d. It. I bequeath to the light of the Holy Cross "in alto" 20^d. I bequeath to the light of the Blessed Mary the Virgin in the said church 20^d. I bequeath to Agnes my daughter 5^l. I bequeath to Joan my daughter 5^l. The rest of my goods not disposed of, I give to pay my debts and to Margaret my wife that she dispose for the health of my soul as she shall think most pleasing to God and most beneficial to my soul; and I constitute Margaret my wife my executrix.

"Et pro magna consideraciõe quam habui in Waltero Barton de Reading predict. constituo in supvisorem mei hujus testamenti ea intencione q^d ipe intendat et effectualit' laboret circa reputaciõem debitorum meorum &c. Hiis testibz dñs Edwardus Bowes curato de Braynford, Roberto Sadler, Wiffo Wryght, Raynold de Reding pred. et aliis."

Proved at Lambeth 10 Nov. 1522.

The Will of Richard Bedowe,

Vicar.

(Somerset House. Reg. "Hogen," fo. 22.)

In Dei nomine. Amen. The xv day of November, in the xxvj yere of King Henry the eight the yere of our lorde god a thowsande v^c and xxxiiij, I maister Richard Bedowe vicar of Sainte Lauraunce in Reading of the diocesse of Sar. in hole mynde and good Remembraunce, lawde be to God, make my testament conteyning in hym my last wille in maner and fourme as folowith. Ffirst, I commende my soule to Almighty God, and to the holy company of hevin, and my body to be buried in the chauncell of saint Laurence church in Reading beforesaid before the ymage of Sainte Laurence at the aulter's end. Item, I bequeth to the cathedrall churchie in Sar. iij^s iiij^d—to the cathedral churchie of Lincolne iij^s iiij^d—to the cathedrall churchie of saint David iij^s iiij^d—to the reparaciõs of saint

Laurence church aforesaid xl^s. Item, I bequeth to the maynctenance of Jesu Masse in Sainte Lauraunce church aforesaid vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequethe to the mainctenaunce of our lady masse in the same church vj^s viij^d to the parrishe church of Lukenor xl^s. Item, I bequethe to the parrishe church of New Radnor a chalice price iij^{li} to Glawster church a chalice price iij m^{rc} to Landewy abarargh a vestment of grene satten of burges to the parish church of Borroth a vestment of grene satteyn of burges. Item, I will that my executour finde and provide to my mother during her life all thinges necessary for hir. Item, I will that my mother shal have during hir life all the revenues profits and use of all my father's landes &c. (He mentions his uncle Sir John ap Rice). Item, I bequeth to the freers mynours in Reading aforesaid xl^s. Item, I bequethe to Richard Andro xl^s and my gowne that I were euy day w^toute the furre, and to his wife my shorte gowne. Item, I bequethe to an honest preest iij marks sterling to singe two yeres at Sainte Martyns in Oxford for the soules of John Powes and his wife and their benefactours. Item, I bequethe to my brother at Godstow to be praied for iij^{li} to the poor people of Lewknor shortly after his burial xl^s. To the churches of Adwell, Weston, Asten, Croyay iij^s iij^d each to my cowsen Lewes ap Rice xx^s to my cowsen David ap Ilen xx^s. Item, I bequethe all my bokes to All Sowlen College in Oxforde, &c. Item, I bequethe to Sir John Maynforte for his labour and for my monthes Dirige, x^s. Item, I bequethe to an honest preest to singe and pray for my soule one yere in Sainte Laurence vj^{li} xij^s iij^d. And I will the same preest to say Placebo and Dirige and coñmendaçon thrise every weke during the said yere, w^t Masse of Requiem on the morrowe, and that to be doon suche dayes in the weke as myn executour shall appointe, and the saide preest to synge longer for me, if my goodes after my bequestes paid will further extende. Item, I make and ordeyne maister Thomas ap Howell my sool executour &c. Item, I make my lorde Hugh Abbott of Reading and Dr. Gwent, Deane of the Arches, my supervisors &c. and I geve to eche of them for their labour a Riall of gold. Item, I bequethe to my aunte that is blinde x^s. Item, I bequethe to Saint Laurance church in Reading aforesaid two of my new joyned stools for their Rectours. In witness whereof I have sette myn seale in the presence of these witnesses vnderwriten the

day and yere above writton, Petir Shefforde, Davy Williams, and John Mainforthe curat.

Proved at Lambeth 21 Jan. 1534.

The Will of William Watts.

(Probate Registry, "Hogen," fo. 28.)

In the Name of God. Amen. The first day of July in the yere of our Lord God M. fyve hundred and xxxv. I William Watts of the parishe of Sainte Laurence of Readyng hole in mynd and of good remembrance, laude be to God, make my testament in maner and fourme folowing: first, I comēde my soule to almighty God my maker and Redemer, to our Blissid Lady saint Mary, and to all the holy company of hevyn, and my body to be buried in the parishe church of Saint Lawrance aforesaid before the quere dore. Item, I will that there shall be bestowed at my buriall amongst preests clerks and pour people, fyve pounds, and in lyke maner at my monethes mynde fyve pounds. Item, I will so shortly as can be after my decease all my debts to be paid and that to be doon w^out delaye, which debts be written in my counting boke. Item, I bequeth to the high awlter of Saint Lawrance in Reading aforesaid for tythis & offerings forgotten vj^s viij^d. Item, I will that an honest preest shall singe and say masse and other divine services for my soule and all Xpñ soules the space of oon yere in Saint Lawrance aforesaid, and the preest to have for his labour vj^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d. Item, I will that Margaret my wife shall have all my three tenements w^t the appurtenaunces that lyeth between the Vawte and the George gate, and a parcell of arable grounde lying in Whitle called the Clayepittes for terme of her lyf and after her decesse to Henry Watts my cousin keeping an obite in Saint Laurences churche for xx yeres next and immediately following the decease of Margaret my wyf, to the value of vj^s viij^d yerely. (To his wife Margaret he bequeaths 20*l*. with all his goods in his house in New Street, except a gilt piece given to Thomas Knight as well 20 marks to bring up David his brother. To Richard Knight 5 marks. To William Knight 5 marks.) "Item, I bequeth to the Reparaçōs of thornaments that belongeth to the brotherhode of Jesus Masse founded in Saint Laurence

churche aforseid five m̃rcs." (He bequeathed 40^s to the Lady Mass for the same purpose, to the reparations of the church 20^s, to St Mary's in Reading 6^s 8^d, to St Gyles 6^s 8^d, to the church of the ffriars Minours 6^s 8^d, to Wokyngham church 20^s.) "To Rafe my sonne every yere 20^s." (He appointed a yearly obit to be kept for his soul in St. Lawrence's so long as Margaret his wife should live, enjoining her to bestow thereat yearly the sum of 40^s among priests, clerks, and poor people. He constituted Richard Turner and Henry Watts his executors.

Witnesses—Water Barton, gent, John Vansbye, Robert Watlyngton "and other moo."

Proved at Lambeth 13 Nov. 1535.

The Will of Thomas Justice.

(Probate Registry, "Hogen," fo. 31.)

In Dei Nomine. Amen. The xiiij day of Decem-
ber the yere of our Lorde God a thousand five hundred xxxv.
I Thomas Justice, Clerke of Readinge &c—do make &c.—
Ffurst, I commende my soule to Almightye god and to the
holly company of hevyn, and my body to be buried in the
pishe church of sainte Laurence in Readinge aforesaid
. . . . I bequethe to the pishe church of sainte Maries in
Readinge aforesaid xx^s . . . to the pishe church of sainte
Gyls in Readinge aforesaid xx^s Item, I bequethe to
Alice the wife of Thomas Sayntmonde a salte of siluer w^t
the couer pcell gilte and vj spones of siluer and a paier of
shetes I bequethe to every of hir children beinge
now alive and unmarried a siluer spon and fourtie shillings
in moneye and a pair of shets, and if any of them dye, than
their parte to be divided to the survivours brethren and
susters. Item, I will my two tenements lyinge in London
Strete to Richard my brother, kepinge therfor yerely in the
parish Church of saint Laurence an yerely obite for the
soules of his frendes and myne. The residue of all my
goodes aboue not bequethede after my detts paide, I give
and bequethe to Richard Justice my brother, and to Thomas
Sayntmounde, whom I ordeyne and constitute myne exe-
cutours to dispose the said residew to my poure kynnes
ffolks, and other poure people of sainte Laurence parryshe
aforesaide, and I give to eiche of them xx^s for their labour.

In witness wherof I have subscribed this with myne owne hande the day and yere above written.

Proved the 27 of January,
1535.

The Will of Walter Barton.

(Somerset House. Reg. "Dyngely," fo. 17.)

In the Name of God. Amen. I Water Barton of Radyng in the Dioc' of Sar' being in helth of bodye and in good and parfite memorye; thanks be to our Lord God, The xxvij day of Octobre the yere of our Lord God a thousand fyve hundreth thirty and sevyn, And in the xxixth yere of the reigne of King Henry the eight, make my testament and last will in maner and fourme as folowith—ffirst I bequeth my soule to Almighty God, and to the suffrage of his blissed mother our lady saint Mary, and to the suffrages of all the holy company of hevyn, And my Body to be buried there where it shall please god to dispose for me after the discrecion of myn executours. Item, I bequethe to the Cathedrall church of Sar' vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequethe to Sir John Maynfforthe vicar of Saint Laurence, my Curat, in recompense of my tithes negligently forgotten yf any be, and to pray for me xx^s. Item, I bequeth to Sir Thomas Lathum parson of Englefield to pray for me x^s. Item, I bequeth to maister William Symondes vicar of Busselden to pray for me x^s. Item I bequeth to Sir William Atkynson parson of Uffeton to pray for me x^s. Item, I bequeth to the Vicar of Shepelake to pray for me x^s. Item I will that there be deliuered w'in six days after my deceas to fourscore pore householders being charged with Childeren w'in the towne of Radyng after the discrecion of myn executours to every of them iij^s iiij^d. Item I will that there be said and doon for my soule at my burying, and as soon as may be doon conveniently, so it be doon at my burying and at my monethes mynde and before, a thousande masses. Item, I will ther be delte for me at my burying and before my monethes mynde to poure people dwellyng in the towne of Radyng to pray for me twenty pounds after the discrecions of my executours. Item, I bequeth towarde the mayntenaunce of the Masse of Jhu in the parisshe of Saint Laurence of Radyng vj^{li} xij^s iiij^d.

Item, I bequeth toward the mayntenance of the Masse of our lady wⁱⁿ the said church, thre pounds vj^s viij^d. Item, I will that all such detts and sumes of money as be expressed hereafter in this quayre be truely contented and paid as spedely as may be conveniently. Item, I will that if there shall be hereafter any other detts or restitucons claymed by any parson, as I remembre me noon to be, yet if it may appere to myn executours by any likelyhod or coniectur that it shuld be, I will it shall be paide Item, I give and bequeth to Alys my wife all my stuffe of householde and all my plate except suche as I shall hereafter declare by this my will. Item, I bequeth to Griffith Barton my newewe oon salt of siluer, parcell gilt w^t a couer that is daily occupied on my borde, twelve spones of oon sorte having knapps gilt w^t this 1^r X in euery ende, and thre litle cupps of siluer w^t a couer that John Hart made to me when he dwelled at Redyng. Item, I bequeth to William Buryton my newewe all my weryng gere. Item, I bequeth to Alice my wife all the wares in my shop with the dettes of the whole stock belonging to the same. Item where William Buryton my newewe for suche money as he hath in the said stock and for his labour hath had before this diverse yeres the fourth parte of the geyn of the said stock and wares toward his lyving, I will that after my decesse yf he wyll and do contynue his occupying w^t my said wife and behave himself toward hir kyndely, that as long as they can so agree together, that he shall have the third parte of the geyn and profite that shall yerely rise vpon the occupying of the said stock that is to sey, all the profits that shall growe and ryse vpon the said occupying to be yerely rekened, and the thirde parte of the said encrase and geyne to be deliuered to the said William And if they cannot so agree, then I will there shall be deliuered to him in Wares detts and redy money the thirde parte of all the said stock and so to depte the other two partes to be at the discrecion and will of my said wife to dispose at hir libertie, and if they doe contynue together in so occupying till my wife decesse, then I will the said William shal haue the halfe parte of the said stock as well in wares, money and detts: in euery thing the other halfe therof to be at the libertie of my said wife to be disposed at hir pleasure. Item, I bequeth to my said wife all such interest and leeses as I have in the psonage of Shiplake in the ferme of Burwey and in the porcon of the tithes of Synsh^am, soo always

that as long as my newewe William Buryton and she doo contynue together their occupying, I will he shall haue the half of the profits of the same w^t my said wife and the hool after hir deceas. And if they do not so contynue agree and occupye together, then I will the said William Buryton shall have noo parte of the profits thereof but my wife to have the hool profits during her lyfe And after hir deceas, my newewe Henry Barton to have the said Leeses during the termes of the same.

Item, I bequeth to Thomas Buryton my newewe vj^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d. Item, I bequeth to euery of his Childern being in lyfe vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequeth to John Buryton my newewe iiij^{li} vj^s viij^d, and to euery of his Childern being in lyfe vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequeth to my newewe John Blount fourty shillings, and to euery of his children being in lyfe vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequeth to Thomas Blount my newewe xl^s, and to euery of his children being in lyfe vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequeth to Richard Blount my newewe xl^s, and to euery of his children being in lyfe vj^s viij^d. Item, I bequeth to William Buryton my newewe my leese that I have in the psonage of Ash^mpsted to help to find his children and to bring them up. Item, I bequeth to my newewe Griffith Barton all my interest and Leese that I have in the Lordship of Southstoke and the psonage of the same with the indenture therof to his own propr use. Item, I bequeth to the same Griffith Barton, to Thomas, Water, and Xpofer, the sons of William Buryton, all such interest and Leese as I have in the Lordship of Mykelton, and the parsonage of the same, to take the profits therof when it shall com, equally to be divided bitwene them foure, And he that doth longest lyve to haue and enioy the hool leese w^t all the profits of the same, and the indenture therof, and that Leese not to be solde nor any part therof but to remayne as aboue expressed w^tout any aliena^cõn of any parte therof till the hole shall come to oon of the hands of the said foure persons. And for suretie therof, I will the said indenture shall remayn in the sauff custodye of the Maior and Burghenses of Redyng by indenture to be kept, and for the custody therof assone as the terme of the said indenture shall begin to take effect, I will the said Maior and Burghenses shall have yerely out of the same vj^s viij^d till the said indenture shalbe deliuered as is afore written. Item, I bequeth to William Buryton and to Thomas, Water, and Xpofer, his three sonnes, all such interest as I have in the

psonage of Cholsey, the profit therof to be equally devided among them (the maior and burgesses to keep the indenture as before) Ffor the custodie wherof, I will shall be yerely deliuered to the maior and burgesses to thuse of their hall, two quarters of good and sote (*sweet*) whete to be paid yerely out of the said parsonage and deliuered at Radynge wⁱⁿ their said hall as long as the maior and burgenses shall have the custodye of the said indenture. Item, where I haue caused my recoverers of my manor of Ildesley to make a leese w^t me to William Buryton my newewe of the fferme of Hodcote for terme of certeyn yeres as appereth by the said indenture, upon the whiche fferme I have nowe a stocke of shepe to the nombre of thre hundreth thre score and aboue, The which Leessees made of trust to myn owne vse, I will and bequeth the same leese and the hole stock thervpon to be disposed as hereafter doth folowe : Ffirst I will that my said newewe shal haue the said fferme and the hole stock vpon the same, and he to take the profits of the same to thentent that w^t the same profits he shall continually maynten the same stock as good as it is nowe, and the rest of the profits to take to his owne vse toward the keping of his childern till Alice his doughter shall come to the age of mariage. And yf she be ruled in hir mariage by hir said father then I wille she shal haue the said Leese and the hole stock to hir said mariage. And if it fortune the said Alice to dye before she shalbe married, or yf she marye contrarie to hir fathers mynde, then I bequethe the said leese and the hole stock to Thomas, Water, and Xpofer, sonnes of the said William, the profits therof over and beside the maynten^{unce} of the said stock as is afore written to be equally divided amonge them, (but if these die without issue) then I give and bequeth the same leese and stock to my Cosyn Gruffith Barton." (He then constitutes his wife Alice his executrix and William Buryton and Robert Watlyngton his executors.) "And I bequeth to the same Robert to helpe my wife in hir cawsis ij^{li} vj^s viij^d." He gives the residue to his wife to be disposed for the benefit of their souls according to her discretion. Witnessed by Gruffith Barton, John Trumflet, and John Maynforth vicar there.

Memorand. I bought my landes in Streteley in Jan : 20 Hen : viij, and sens my entre I dyd paye noo quyte rent to my lord of Derbye, the whiche claymeth yerely out of it xxxj^s vj^d. Item, I doo thinke in conscience I do owe to

paye yerely for such londes as I doo holde of hym in all xvj^s vj^d. Item, certeyn londes there callid 'Goldhurds' is holden of him by the yerely rent of viij^s and a pound pep, and of that londes William Ffrewen of Streteley hath all the chief londes that he bought of William Watts of Readyng, and yet I doo knowe I have parte of that londe, but a great dele the lesse and worste parte, yet I can be content to bere parte of the Rent; And yf I bere yerely iij^s I thinke it be w^t the largest. And yf I pay therfor iij^s, then my hole rent to my lord of Derbye for all my londes shalbe yerely xx^s vj^d. So I do owe them for oon yere at Mich. anno xxi Hen. viij xx^s vj^d. and so to Mich. anno xxvij. The hole sm^a soo owyng vijⁱⁱ iij^s vj^d.

Memorand. I ought to have coñon in all my lords Demaynes as apperith by my evidens of the graunte of John Mohon one of my lords Auncestours and I am kept from it. Item, my lord cawsid certen of my ten^aunts and seruants to be indyted of Ryott and of forcible entre for pecible entre into two acres of myn owne grownde in the Suth felde, and therupon ther was an accon taken agayn them at the coñen lawe and an Issue joyned, and my lord will sue noo further, the fynes of the said judyments and the costes in the suyte in the lawe in defence of my lords wrong doon to me in that and in other accons tryed agayns my lords ten^ants in repleyves and other, cost me aboue tenne pounds: som recompence I wold I had, and yet, notwithstanding the trouble and wrong that I haue had, if I may haue and enjoy my coñen and to haue my londes owt of Waryans according to my right, I wolde my lord were payde of his Rents being behynde, and so after contynually. Item, John Clerk of Hagburn claymeth owt of my londes in Sheprege xx^d by the yere, yf he can shewe me out of what londe it is dewe to be paid or any other thinge to charge me by, I will he be paid. I am behynde at Mich. anno xxvj I think vj yeres.

Detts to be paid by myn executours: ffirst I did receyve of Leonard Rede Esquier more than my dutie by tenne pounds towards that I lent him vpon a bill of his hande obligatory tenne m^rks and yet I owe him fyve m^rks: I dyd delyuer that fyve m^rks to my maister Englefelde to paye him, and the other bill to be cancelled and he must discharge me therof. I will it be paid of myn own conscience, for I am in dowte whether he be paid. Item, ther is owyng yet to Pangburn church to buy a Cope, of the

legacy of maister Leynham, xiijs iiij^d. I haue ben in hande w^t the parishens to bye a cope and they do not. I will it be doon and paid according to maister Leynhams will. I will that money to be paid.

Probatum fuit &c. 16 die mensis

Maii AD. 1538. apud London &c.

Robert Watlington, Clothmaker, made his will
6th Jan. 1541.

"Item, I bequeth to the high aulter in Saint Laurence Church for tithes &c. forgotten, xx^d. Item, to the Masse of Jesus in the Church of Saint Laurence, xiijs iiij^d. Item, to the Masse of our Lady, x^s. He bequeathed to his three 'childer' Nicholas, Alice, and Joan, 26*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. apiece. To every servant in his house at his departing, 6*s*. 8*d*. each. To poor people at Warfield, 20*s*. He gave his real property to Nicholas and his heirs. "It. I bequeath to Nicholas my sonne my great goblet and my great Andyrans." The residue of his goods he left to Elizabeth his wife.

Proved Jan. 30th, 1542.

Reg. "Spert," fo. 15.

John Trumflet, Mercer, gave to his sister Alice Trumflet 5*l*.: to his sister Catharine Sowthy 5*l*.: to the four daughters of his wife Alice, viz., Bridget, Elizabeth, and Margaret, 10*l*. each. To his son Richard 200*l*. to be taken by 40*l*. a year out of the debt of Richard Watlington. To the same Richard he devised all his lands, &c. in Binfield, Reading, Arborfeld, &c., his wife Alice to enjoy the rents during his son's minority.

He gave his best gown to his uncle William, his long gown lined with chamlet to Thomas Southy, and his gown of Kentish Russet to his cousin Robert Sheford, his doublet of Damask to Will Watlyngton, his satin doublet to John Gateley, and his chamlet jacket to Richard Mathew. To Robert Style 6*l*. He appointed Mr. Thomas Vachell the elder the overseer of his will.

Proved 25 Sept. 1549.

Reg. "Hogen," fo. 38.

The Obituary.

A list of the names of those persons whose bequests, interments, and obsequies are recorded in the Church accounts from the year 1410, down to the commencement of the burial registers in 1605.

The persons whose names are marked with an *asterisk* were buried within the church.

Anno 1410. Robert Beche bequeathed $vj^s viij^d$ to the Church.

1433-4. Ric. Glover bequeathed x^s .
John Barton (butcher) bequeathed $vj^s viij^d$ to the Church.

Ric. Benton bequeathed $iiij^d$ to the Church.
Tho. Glover bequeathed $j^s viij^d$ to the Church.

Will. Lousse bequeathed $j^s viij^d$ to the Church.

John Markham jun^r bequeathed $vj^s viij^d$ to the Church.

John Chapman bequeathed j^s .

Thomas Cowper bequeathed vj^d to the Church.

1440-1. Thomas Have bequeathed $iiij^s iiij^d$.

John Kayns bequeathed $vj^s viij^d$.

Ric. Hawkeley bequeathed $iiij^s iiij^d$.

1441-2. Thomas Swayn bequeathed $vj^s viij^d$.

Amicia, mother of Tho. Clerke bequeathed v^s .

1498-9. Thomas Butler*. Webby's wyfe. Henbury's wife of Caversham. Alysaunder Prentysc* wyfe. Thomas Payne. Boldys moder. Richard Ades. Thomas Carpenter's wives moder*. Pleccyes wife. Alysaunder Prentice*. Hudson's wife. John Fuller's wife. Robard Cavyes wife*.

1501-2. Sir John Hyde, vicar of Sonning*. William Tru (or Trew)'s wife*. Isabel wife of Rob. Sadler.

- 1502-3. Harry son of Robard Prow. Lawrence Morton gentyllman*. Roger Johnson's wife*. John Crewse*. Thomas Platts* (see below). Sir John Pymber (priest)*. John Long Master of the Grammar school*. My lord Wod's bequest 6^s 8^d. Thomas Rede*. Elizabeth, wife of Harry Prow. William Hill. (Elizab. his widow married M^r Mayho). Sir Will Symmys* (interred w^t much ceremony.) Will. Dodson*. William Watts. Will. Harebotell. Will Hasylwood's wife*.
 "It rec^d of Margaret Platts for a stone to cou her husbonds grave xix."
- 1503-4. William Dodson (Isabel his relict). Joan wife of Nicholas Kent. Thomas Myrman's wife. Tho. Turner's wife. Florence Rede* (Alice Sharp paid the burial fees). Nicholas Kents wife Joan*. William Hill (leaving Joan his widow).
 "It rec. of Randall Kelsall for wast of Torchis at þ^e yer mynd of Harry Kelsall x^d."—(H. Kelsall died in 1493.) John Higson's wife left 8^d towards a Pax.
- 1504-5. Richard Wylcox* (son of John. See monts.) Agnes wife of Lawrence Hill. Margaret Nash's husband. Alice a Dene*. Agnes wife of John Sharpe*. Thomas Bunting—fees p^d by Symond Lamb. John Darling* (father of John Darling C.W.). Anne Darling* "my moder" (*i.e.* of Jno. Darling C.W.). Agnes, wife of William Watts. Robert Prows wife*. John Love gave 6^s 8^d to the church by will. White his executor.
- 1505-6. Helen Langham*—fees paid by John Gryffyn. William Hall*—fees paid by his widow Margery.
- 1506-7. The husband* of Sybell Darling. Dancaster*—fees by his widow. John Arnold.
- 1507-8. Master Symeon. A kinsman of Sir Thom: Walssh. John Wylcox*. Will: Hether—fees by M^r Cleche. The father of John Kent. Thomas Hart*. Sir John Styry*—fees paid by John Pouncer. Robert Prow*—fees by W^m Lendall.

- 1508-9. John Gryke. John Vyncentt*. Will: Nettar*. William Myllis*. John Kent's wife*. Robert Burlei's wife. M^r Rokys*. Colyar. Cave*. Robert Dodson's wife*. Agnes Darling*. Roger Grancy*. Thomas Hart.
- 1509-10. Mestres Bereman. Nettar's wife. Edwards of the Kinge's Stabull. 'Haselwood's weyff'. M^r May*. Robert Dodson's kynnes woman*. Harry Wylcock's wife*. Haselwood* (the bellfounder).
- 1510-11. Nycholas Ward sⁱv^{ant} w^t the Kyng*. Raufe Mylyngton*—"It. rec. for the great bell at his beryng, and duryng the monethe, and at the moneth mynde, v^s iiij^d. William Cobbe*. John Semper's wife. Rec^d of the greate Bell at Hasywod's mynd xij^d. Rawlyn's wife*. The wife* of John Turner, baker. Harry Wylcox*. Ireland's wife*. Sharpe's wife*.
- 1511-12. John Pastler*. John Semper. John Turner*—(his son Richard Turner paid the fees.)
- 1512-13. Andrew's wife*.
- 1513-14. Alysaunder Wyld.
- 1514-15. Cony's wife. John Roke*. Roger Bryce*. Will: Faryngton*. Will Leycct*.
- 1515-16. Richard Turner's wife*. Will. Lendall*—(Will. Knight paid for his year's mind in 1525-6.) Philip Rysby's wife*. Isabell Hart*. M^r Watt's wife*. M^r White*. Christian Wilcox*. John Roke*—(buried under the seats). Richard Aman's wife*. Roger Brice (bur^d under the seate). Rich^d Wryght, baker, bequeaths 3^s 4^d to the church.
- 1516-17. Nicholas Kent. William Stamford* (a benefactor.)
- 1517-18. Ralph White of Okyngham. Richard Turner's wife. Xpofer Spakeman's wife*. John Pownsar*—(see *Wills*). Will. Layward*. Whit (the bellfounder's) wife*.
- 1518-19. John Partriche*. John Molyners* (fletcher). Robert Dodson's wife*—(a dyer). Will. Kenes wife*. John Lambs wife*. John Lamb*. John Eton*. Will. Trewe* jun^r. Richard Goodyere's child*—buried w^t Dod-

son's wife. Randall Kelsall's moder*—(no fees charged for use of the bell—see *Bells* under 1515.)

1519-20. Rob. Blake's wife*.

The great bell was usually *rung* for a knell, and *tolled* for the month's mind, and 'terment,' or year's mind. The following is the only exception:—

1520-1. It. for *Ryngyng* at the t'ment of my lord Abbott xij^d (Thomas Worcester). Thomas Barber*. Wrights wife. Sir John Richmond*—buried in St. John's chancel. John Kent's wife. M^r Carpenter*. Joan Darling*.

1521-2. Roger Johnson's wife*. William Trewe*. William Kene. John Gylman. William Traunder the King's S^hvant.

1522-3. John Buckworth's wife*. M^{res} Smyth*. Henry Horthorn*—(see an account of his family under *Sepulchre Altar*). William Lasseham*. Nicholas Kene*. Thomas Watts*.

1522-3. The vycar of Hakfeld. M^{res} Dabscowrt Davye Joons*. Thomas Tallyer*. John Whyt-tygh^{am}. M^{res} Vincent*. John Wynyet. John Voyer's wyff*. Harry Carpenter*.

1523-4. Mr. Richard Cleche's wife.* "A straung' that dyed at the george"*. John Johnson's wife. Rich. Yeves wife. Mr. Everard's wife (died some time before). John a Merckbye's wife.

1524-5. John Paynter*. Isabell Lessham*. Will Sadler*. Rec. for the grave of Mayst Cletch* by his bequest x^s, and for Knell and Month's mīnd ij^s iij^d. Mestres Dawson.

1525-6. John Goodgame*. Will. Fayrchild*. Rob. Dodson* (dyer). Robt. Dwight*. Margaret Goodyere*.

"Gyven to the church by the same M'garett a pott p'ce ij^s v^d."
Symson's wife.

1526-7. Margaret Weston*. Henry Currers wife*. Rob. Lykley*. Will. Whytt.

1527-8. John Andrew's wife*. Thomas Everard*. Nicholas Hyde*. Sir Will. Wryght*. Randall

Kelsall*. (no charge for his knell &c.)
 Henry Horethorn's wife*. Will Coon*—
 (He appears to have executed all the more
 delicate wood carving in the church—c.
 1520.). Ric. Wyers wife. John Andrew's
 wife. John Cottelar.

- 1528-9. Thomas Symson*. Symon Lamb's wife*. Sir
 Thomas*, (a priest.)
- 1529-30. Robert Medwyn's wife*. Ric. Chester*. John
 Andrew's wife*. Nich Eves wife*.
- 1530-1. John Russel*. Lawrence Malt*. Ric. Foxley*.
 Thomas Overthrow's bequest 4^d.
- 1531-2. M^r Ffoster*. Xpofer Butler*.
- 1532-3. Agnes Vansby*. Agnes Coone*—(see 1527).
 M^{rs} Margaret Hidc*. Philip Riseby*.
 Robert Philip.
- 1533-4. Ric. Eve*. Alice Paynter* widow. Sir Robert
 Heth*. Als Watlyngton*.
- 1534-5 Simon Lambb*. Richard Barnes* bequeathed
 vj^s viij^d. M^r Richard Bedow, vicar*, be-
 queathed 40^s. Nicholas Eve*. John An-
 drewes wife. M^r Will Watts*, bequeathed
 xx^s. (See *Wills*.)
- 1535-6. William Knight, bequeathed 6^s 8^d. Anne
 Hodson*.
- 1536-7. Thomas Panter*. Roger Johnson's wife*. An-
 teny Brygham. Als Smith*. Will. Smyth*.
 John Masthalls wife. M^r Whitton. Will
 Smyth's wife*. Robert Watlyngton's wife*.
 Sir Thomas Englefold, knight. Barnard
 Gorffyn*. Margaret, servant to Ric. Dodge-
 son*.
- 1537-8. Walter Barton* Knyll xij^d.
 ("Rec. for the grave of Wat Barton & Couyng
 the same w^t a stone vij^s viij^d.")
 William Coke & his wife. Welsshe's wife.
 Justynyan's wife. Will. Paslow's wife. Rec.
 for tollyng at the t^yment for the Brethern
 of Ehs masse. (First entry of the kind.)
- 1538-9. John Barfotts wife*. Katyn Carpent^r*. Wil-
 liam Buryton's wife*. Andrew Wright's
 wife*. John Buk. John Vansby's wife.
 Will Lyppescombe's wife.
- 1539-40. Christian White*. Robert Ellys*. John

- Butteler*. Hugh Frankleyn's wife. William Turner*.
- 1541-2. Mistress Margaret Watts*. John Byrds wife*. John Andrew*. John Rede ats Skynner*. Dodgesons mayd,*—(see 1536). Thomas Myrthe*. M^r Marble*. Chas. Miller*. John Appowell*. M^{res} Everard*. Elizab. Kemp-sall*. Nic. Nicholas children*. Ric. Bexe. Margaret Watts. John Bede.
- 1542-3. Sir Williz^{am},* chapleyn to Sir Williz^{am} Penyson, Knyght. Mrs. White*. Mrs. Thornell. Stephen Cawodd. David Williz^{am}'s wife.
- 1543-4. Robert Watlyngton*. Roger Johnson*. Thomas Knyght*. M^r Edward the King's servant*. Will. Edmund's wife. "Rec. for tylling at the timent of Mr. Justice iij^d." Will Barbor's wife. John Shawe. M^{res} Cambye. John Kent*. John Vansbye*. James Hoberd's wife. Gilbert Johnson's wife*. Nicholas Niclas' child*.
- 1544-5. James Wild*. Mrs. Butler*. John Cutley's wife. M^r Potter. Gatlei's wife.
- 1545-6. Joan Knight*. ("Rec. for the grave of M^{res} Barton and for couyng of the same vij^s iij^d.") Robt. Roys.
- 1546-7. John Barfote*. Xpofer Fuller's wife*. Ric. Dodson's wife*. Thomas Mason's wife*. M^r Turner.
- 1547-8. Gilbert Johnson*. Peter Laurence. Robt. Ellys' wife. M^{res} Watlynton*. M^{res} Nicholas. Richard Novys. ("Rec. for the knyll of M^r Justice xij^d." "Of the grave of M^r Justice vij^s iij^d.")
- 1548-9. Hugh Goodwyn*. "One that dyed at Perkyns." John Trumflet*. Rob. Hodson. Margaret Slythurst*. Rob. Stanshawe. Nicholas Niclas*. Rob^t Bell.
- 1549-50. Mother Barker. Mother Chamberlayn. Rec. for the knyll of the Vicar. Alice Trumflett*. Edward Phillippes' wife*.
- 1550-1. M^r Bearde. Thom^{as} Malthows. Hugh Beke. Rob^t Blake. M^r Buckland*. Sawnder's wife*. John Wheler*.

- 1551-2. Thomas Perkyns*. M^{res} Myrth*. Johⁿne (Joan) Aldeworthe*. Raphe Gladwyn*.
- 1552-3. William Bureton*. Anthony Chapman*. Will. Davy & his wife*. Will. Avis wife*.
- 1553-4. Radley's wife*.
- 1554-5. Richard Mathewe*. Edmund Raynefford*. Peersie the corior*. Yerpes wife*. John Fforman*.
- 1555-6. John Poyntz*. Will. Parslowe*. Richard Courtney*. Peter Reade. Edward Butler's childe. Walter Beryngton's childe—(Buryton). Thomas Hunt's wife. William Watlington.
- 1556-7. John Reade*. Richard Dodson*. Thomas Sentman*. James Edmonde*. Will. Edmonde*. A boy Thomas Edmonde. M^{rs} Turner*. M^{rs} Bell*. Goodwyfe Wyar*. Goodw. Johnson*. Isabell Moore*. Will. Avyys*. Harry Watlyngton*. John Myllar. Agnes Myllar.
- 1557-8. Goodw. Huggens*. Will. Baynton. Ric. Smythe*. Goodwife Watlyngton*. Goodman Chauntrell*. Robart Myllwarde*. Goodw. Benwell. Goodman Harpyn*. Syr Willyam Webbe. The Curryar*. M^{rs} Bourne. Mayster Bourne. Goodw. Ffawsby*. Goodm. Constable*. Peter Barber's wife. Mother franklyn. Tayler the smith's mother & father. Goodm. Nightingale's mayde. M^r Perkyns.
- 1558-9. M^{rs} Beake. Goodm. Allesaunder. Goodm. Saunders*. Geo. Wray. Goodw. Sentman*. John Bowlde. Leonard Brewar. Ric. Whitbourne. Goodm. Tayler's wife. Goodm. Alexander's wife. Harry Touse. John Pyckton. John Cater.
- 1559-60. John Cooper. G-w. Constable. Mystres Clyfford. G-w. Mathewe. John Andrew's wife. Will. Martyn. Maister Bygg. John Gateley's wife. Edmond Locke. Goodm. fynmore's child. G-w. Cater. G-w. Burgeys. Allesaunder. Will. Haslett's child. John Braysey. Francis Beake. Eliz. Rewby. Annys Church. Ric. Fostbury. John Radley's maid.
- 1560-1. John Huggens. Jone Cooper. Goodm. Wellsh. Goodm. Hookar. Jeffery Cooper's wife & child.*

- 1561-2. John Alloway. Richard Knyght. Will. Wilde. Jone Myles. Jone Butler. Agnys Hydar. Thom. Ffawkesby. Widow Cooper*. Goodw. Shaw*.
- 1562-3. Father Moore. Nicholas Watlyngton. John Webb's wife*. The olde Tanner. Jone ffyne. Mr Will. Watlyngton*. Agnes Gybbens.
- 1564-5. Mrs Tylby*. Anys Burges. Alice Shawe. John Phillypp. Ric. Wellshe. Annys Clement. Mother Ryther.
- 1565-6. "Mr Blacgrove's wyffes knyll xx^d." Maister Vachell's daughter. Maister Pollington's wife*. Ric. Lock's wife*. Thomas Benwell. John Downar*. Maister Butler's son*. Thomas Crome. G-w. Dennys. Edw^d Phillypp. Tho. Ffraye. G-m. Tanner. G-w. Phillypp.
- 1566-7. "Of Thomas Kenryck for a priest*—knell xx^d: grave 7^s 4^d." Roger Greete. Gregory's wife. Ellis Burgey's daughter. John Cooper's son. John Gryffyn's wife.
- 1567-8. G-m. Bush. Rich. Constable*. Tho. Lightfoote. Mother Kenryck. G-w. Levered. Salter's wife.
- 1568-9. Henry Biggs wife*. "Mystres Okham (of the Abbye)". Martha Hubbard. Mrs Rudge*. Ales Rudge. Mr John Rudge*. Rich. Turner's servant. Jone Jenkyns. James Hubbard.
- 1569-70. Mr Turnar*. Rob. Grantam. G-m. Wells*. G-w. Battye. Gryffen's wife. Well's dau. Thomas Segar.
- 1570-1. Mary Buckland*. Goodman Robynson the "fullar"*. Davye Playne. G-w. Ffaythfull. G-w. Arlatt*. Ales Wake. Widow Harryson's child. Joynar's wife. Stonyford's son.
- 1571-2. Avery Berry's wife's sister. "The Cardmaker." Will. Duddlesoll's chylde. William Budde*. Thomas Philpe.
- 1572-3. Edw^d Vynge. Thom^as Humfery. Gryffen Morgayne. Christopher Porter. Hen. Bryges. Hen. Lendall. Tho. Thorne. Olde Mother Staples. Johanne Harrys. Hen. Cove. Alice Browne. Ric. Burges. Marg. Ryder. Johanne Banester. Steph. Goldinge. Peter Horne.

- Hen. Brygges. Old Father Horne. Joan Browne. Agnes Browne. Adam Denys. Nich. Turner.
- 1573-4. Goodman Jefferie*. Goodwife Budde. Mr. Blake. Goodwife Locke. G-w. Welche. G-w. Prior. John Roberts. G-w. Johnson. Agnes Grea. Goodman Woodward. G-m. Jimmatt. Woodward's wiffe. Wilm Slater. Burgesses man. Will. Sawyer. G-m. Welles. Robinson's childe. M^{rs} Webbes child. G-m. Web.
- 1574-5. Will. Walker. Alice Wells. Roger Clyfforde. Anthony Beake. Jonas Ffringe. Rychard Rolte. Marg^t Wyer. Mary Downer. Ric. Bourneham. Walter Morris. John Jenens. Johanne Gamon. Ralfe Deaton. Alexander Kinge. Agnes Downer. Ric. Drewe. Avicia Byrcham.
- 1575-6. M^r Bowyer. M^r Ockham. Mother Horsley. Esdras Cooper's childe. Mother Redwood. G-w. Rutter. W^m Nightingall's man. Robinson. Goodman Thornes child. Goodwife Bonyvant.
- 1576-7. Roger Nightingall*. M^{rs} Hoskins. G-w. Deddlesall*. M^r Doleman's man*. John Shrive's wife*. John Robinson*. John Gateley*. the Joyner that died at Dennetts. Pyther's wife. M^r Aldworth. Edw^d Locke.
- 1577-8. John Ryder. Goodwife Child's mother. Gardener's wife. Ric. Turner's daughter. Wodenson's wife. John Williams wife's dau. Will. Knight's dau. Wilm Simonds the Turcke his knell viij^d. Will. Rogers. Trapman's maid. An apprentice of London. One Hosier's wife of London. Averie Derrie's dau. Will. Dedollsall. John Dedullsall.
- From Mich. 1578 to Mich. 1579. Hen Bigge's wife*. Christoph. Staper's brother. "Itm. for the knill of Wm. Lawds mother ij^s v^d." Hunte. Widow Wolfe's husband.
- 1579-80. M^r Edmonds*. Ric. Welling. John Shrieve. John Arlette. Geo. Lams*. Will. Walwin's child. John Griffen.

- 1580-1. M^{rs} Lendall*. Mrs. Turner*. Blackall the clothier. Will. Genynge. John Dumper's child. Jones. Doddese's wyfe.
- 1581-2. Goodwife Dell. Tho. Walker's wife. Goodman Dawson. Elizab. Knyght. John Browne. Hen. Taylor. Jone Wilcox. Will. Walwyn. G-w. Berde. John Walles. Anne Browne. Jane Patie. John Lendall. Mr. Hopkin's child. Marg^t Wilkenson. Alice Evans. G-w. Horslye.
- 1582-3. John Huggins*. M^{rs} Butler*. Leonarde Andrew. Ylkenson. Mother Mooraway. G-w. Nycholson. Joseph Carter's child. Blake's wife. Olde Woddell. Higg's wife.
- 1583-4. Ant. Grauntham*. M^{rs} Staverton*. G-w. Stryke. Olde ffather Hayes. Rychard Aldworthe. "M^r Edward Butler his knill ij^s vj^d." Old Agnes Reed. Hen. Bigg's child. Ales Rydge. "My mother in law Bateman"—(Ffrancys Sykes and John Moore, C.W.). Tho. Clawbutt's child. Rob. Monday's child. M^r Harries' child. Coomes the card-maker's son. "One of the gromes of o^r queene's stable." Blackall his child. Hen. Biggs his child. Bawltterstone's child.
- 1584-5. John Webb. Thomas Knight's wife. Thomas Beale. M^r Lydall's child. Nich. Higgs. M^r Hopkin's child. John Browne. Thomas Grea. Strik's child. Walter Watlington's child.
- 1585-6. William Lendall*. Knight*. Green's wife*. Soffe's wife*. G-w. Stokes. G-w. Morrys. Greene's wife. Strowde's wife. G-w. Barnard. G-w. Goffe. Goswell. G-m. Thorne. Gaston's wife. Edw^d M^undaie. M^r Ffippenic.
- 1586-7. Mother Come's Grave*. Elizabeth Remish*. Gilbert Aldworth. Thomas Bagley. Richard Arlott. Andrew Strike. Nicholas Saunders. John Stratton. Richard Lock. Goslen. Wimper's wife. Edward Brambley. Robert Jonson. Richard Burges. ffather Randole. Ald. Redwood. Curtise wife. Oliver Hanley's son. Beenam's wife.

- Ffoster's wife. Cater's wife. ffather Pyther. Ellys Tomson. Widow Whyte. Old Bennett. Dumper's wife. Mason's child. Cotterell's child.
- 1587-8. John Moon's wife*. Avery Berry*. Rowland Combe. Goodwife More. M^r Kenrick. Mapleton's wife. Margaret fford. Beatrice Gilkins. Bigg's child. James Winch's man. John Child's child. Hugh Prior's wife. Haile's child.
- 1588-9. John Maine*. M^{rs} Child*. M^{rs} Daver's man*. Wiltm Crisselton*. Matthew Reynolds. M^r Townsend*. Collen's wife. Walter Hawke's wife. M^r Callys. Mother Pastler. Weaver's wife. Mother Cooper. M^{rs} Turner's child. Richard Weaver. Denshire. Agnes Sturton. Mathew Renolds. Simon Dee's child. Michael Hamblen's child. John Brambley's child. John Russell's child. Mother Patie's child. John Combe's child. Edw^d Nicholson's child. Thick's dau. Lane's child. M^r Whitton's dau. M^r Whitton's child. Glover's wife.
- 1589-90. Widow Heynse. Goodwife Ryder. M^{rs} Radley. James Baker's wife. M^r Burson. Widow Crisselton. John Dumper. Agnes Seaman. Richard Jonson. More's child. Robert Childe. Miles' dau. John Newman's child. William Nightingall's child. Leonard Levetrett. Edward Lambole's child. Morgan's son. Nicholas' grand-daughter. Braker's daughter. Walter Watlington's maid. John Walsh's maid.
- 1590-1. Ffather Robinson*. M^{rs} Powell* (dau. of Ed. Butler). Eliz. Johnson. William English. James Sexe's wife. Goodw. Russel. Mother Browne. M^r Whitehead of the Q. stable. Jane Nightingall. Jone Goodwin. Mother Swan. Robert Browne. William Young. Yeoman's wife. Walter Watlington's child. John Eelye. Richard Brodde. John Walker's child. John Butcher in the ffriers. Mother ffoxe. John Sone's child. Jefferee Jenyns.
- 1591-2. Edmund Cooper's wife*. Lawrence Barn's wife.

John Gallant's wife. Christopher Barnard. Robert Bowyer. M^r Robert Knoles his daughter. Goodw. Henden. William Grene's child. Mattheve's child. Alice Knight.

- 1592-3. Rouland Come's wife*. Thomas Turner*. Goodman Moore. M^{rs} Dorothie Hopkins. Goodman Pythers. Goodman Cloiton. John Sone. Fforest's wife. M^r Witton. M^r Brighton. Thomas Turner. Will^m (M^r Daver's man). Goodwife Venter. Mother Venter. John Servgood. Thomas Tutler. Eadde. John Russell's child. John Newson's child. Hen. Ffreeman's child. Thorne's child.

- 1593-4. "Received for Wiltm Lawd's grave vij^s iiij^d."*

This William Lawd was the father of the illustrious Archbishop. He was a native of Wokingham. Mr. Bruce, in his history of the Archbishop's Benefactions to Reading, states that the father resided in a house on the north side of Broad Street in Reading. Its site is now called 'Lawd Place.' He carried on the trade of a clothier, and filled all the offices in the town save the mayoralty. His wife "Lucy" was the daughter of John Webbe of Wokingham, and sister of Sir William Webbe, Lord Mayor of London in 1591. She was first married to John Robinson, a clothier in Reading, by whom she had a son William, afterwards a Doctor in Divinity, Prebend of Westminster and Archdeacon of Nottingham, and five daughters, one of whom was the mother of Dr. Cotford, and the other of Dr. Layfield, both eminent clergymen. The Abp. was the only issue of his mother by the second marriage. He was born in Reading 7 Oct. 1593.

See under 1570-1 of this Obituary for "Goodman Robynson the fullar" (Mrs. Laud's first husband), 1578-9 for the Archbishop's grandmother (probably buried at Wokingham), and 1601, for the burial of the Archbishop's mother. The monuments belonging to this

family in St. Lawrence's would most certainly be destroyed by the "Roundheads & Rebels" when quartered in the church in 1643. There is no memorial in this town to the Archbishop or his family, although this prelate was one of its greatest benefactors.

Widow King*. Goodwife Ffreuen. Good-w. Staples. Davye Vaghan. M^{rs} Hopkins. M^r Ffilmer. Willm Simmes. Good-w. Welles. M^r Richard Aldworth, maior. Jone Knight. Elizab. Millsopp. John Curteis' sonne. Willm Wigmore. Ellen Walker. John Cater. Thomas Ayres. Margarite Martin. Bradley's childe. Fforest's childe. Anne Wintersall.

1594-5. Richard Rider*. William Thorne's wife. John Ffoote. William Walwin. Agnes Walton. Thomasin Carden. William Linger. George Bradford. Camelle's child. Thomas Willis' childe. Thomas Cutler.

1595-6. Nicholas Mansfielde*. Henry Bigg*. Thomas Page*. Old M^r Child*. Anne Warner. Richard Morrall. Thomas Lewes. Andrew Taylor. Anne Newton. Anne Watlyngton. John Watlyngton. John Andrew. Henry More. Elizabeth Ayierd. Thomas Page. Marie Jones. Alice Rivers. Thomasin Sinwell. Robt. Malton's son. Gabr. Barne's child. Jone Cavie. Collys Browne. George Androw. M^r Charlton's child. Collin's wife. Jone Yeomans. Margerie Benson. Alexander Read. Bartlemew Walker. John Pound. Richard Watlington. Mary Stevens. Richard Watlington. Robert Hicks. Edward Skinner. "*In ye Abbey*—Thomas More's child." Widow Lightfoot.

1596-7. Beniamin Turner*. William Jhonson*. Johane Gatelie*. Edmund Percke*. Richard Cook's wife*. M^{rs} Jhonson*. M^r Beeke*. William Clemment. Roger Watlington. Elizabeth Smithe. Nicholas Child's wife. Robert Mondie the butcher. Robert Johnson's wife. Christian Neele. Alice Maie. Beniamin Turner. Christopher Porter. Roger Webb's

child. Redigunt Clarke. John Weston. Johaⁿ Carr. Anne Weston. Alice Wickmoore. Agnes Willis. Marie Barrett. Christian Tayler. Elizabeth Clifford. Roger Ffraunces. Richard Fforster. A servant of Edw. Birmingham's. Roger Bayley. John Staples' wife. Johanne Aylard. Alice Walker. Patteson's child. William Walker. John Staples glover. Old Simmes. John Carre.

1599. M^r Stamp*. Bryde's wife*. Paule Sadon. Katherine Carter. Miller. Thomas Shepherd. Katherine Smithe. Eliz. Byde. Rich. Byde's wife. Anne West. William Walwin. Katherine Seyman. William Ffindye. Alice Sutton, widow. Mary *Beallucke* (? Bralluck). Garrett Smyth. Rob^t Moore. Thomas Moore. William Thorpe. Thomas Prentall. Katherine Stone. Eliz. Ebson. George Millesant. Ellis Marten. Sibill Hass. Nicholas Stone.

1600. Barnard Harrison*. M^r Ellis Burges. M^r William Lendall. M^r Symson. M^r Barnard's wife. Roger Walker's sonne. Andrew Applebee. Thomas Nightingall. John Walker's child. John Benge's child. William Marshall. Maryan Blinson. Agnes Watts. Robert Dee's child. Joan Welsh. John Braker.

1601. George Burgess*. Will^m Dell*. Mother Andrews. M^r Richard Johnson.*

"R^d for the graue of Wyddowe Lawd & for breking the ground vij^s viij^d."* (See under 1593-4.)

Roger Dawson. Robert Maulthus child. John Pinnsye's child. Agnes Barnes. Margaret Barfoote. William Walker's child. Ffrancis Blake's child. John Bent. Robert Smyth. John Walker's child.

1602. Henry Mayne*. M^r Alexander*. M^{rs} Moore*. John Brock's wife*. Rich^d Watlyngton. Thomas Hussey. M^r Alexander. Arthur Curtice wife. M^r Richard Watlington. M^{rs} Moore (see 1595-6). Robert Maulthus wife. Widow Bailey. Richard Wells. John Brock's wife. Robert Bailey. William Marshall.

- Ellyn Barrett. Bailey's wyddowe. Richard Ffowler. William Staples' childe. Dannes wife. Ellen Hawle. John Gylle. Elizab. Hill. John Graye. William Greene's child.
1603. M^{rs} Carter's sister. Ric. Dell's child. John Symons' child. Edw^d Thorbe's child. John Haryson. Danyell Clear's child. M^{rs} Fillmer. Goodman Collis. Elizabeth Joane Glasse. John Maynerd. Joan Watlington. Denes Vnderwood.
- 18 Feb. M^r Myller's chyl.*
- Father Thomas Wye. John Hutchens. Anthony Bryant. John Gunter. George Rowdes. Lawrence Wayght. John Gibens. John Bishop. Ayles Noble.
- "Rec^d of Sir Francis Knowles x^s." (for a burial).
- M^{rs} An Kendrick. Thomas Levence. John West. John Dawson. Leonard Myller. Ambros Wheyatt. Nathanyell Jemvit.
1604. Goodwyff Kyng's husband, & her man John Swayne. Robert Harmes. Margaret Rumsey. Also Justice. Nycholas Stoane. Annis Burden*. Joane West. Harry Moore's boy. John Martyn. Wydow Burgis*. Also Hulbard. Joane Aley. John Rumsey. Ffrancis Wilmat. Gregory Hissby. M^{rs} Adams. Robert Haryson.*
- "Rec^d of my brother Willyam Ffynmore, executor to my mother Anne Ffynmore 12^d."
- Goodman Baker. Goodman Bramley. John Irysh. Anne Springall. Georg Porchmouth's child. M^{res} Harrys. Richard Traphels. Annys Elezander. William Conoway's child. John Bramley. Eleyzander Withers. Ekary (equerry) Collett.

Churchyard.

"M. that in the monthe of August in the yere of our Lord M.D.lvj and in the iij^d & iiijth yere of the regnes of our souaigne Lord & Lady Philipp & Marie by the gr^{ace} of god kyng & Quene of Englonde Spayne fraunce of bothe Ciciles, Jerlm & Ireland, Defendors of the faithe, Archduke of Austrie, Duke of Burgundie, Millayne & Brabant, Counties of Haspurge fflanders & Tiroll: John Bell then beyng Mayo^r of the Borough of Redyng, Hit was then gr^{anted} by the Quenys ma^{te} vnto then^{ti}ants of the pisshe of Seynt Laurence wⁱⁿ the seid Borough of Redyng a Certayne grounde Lying next vnto the pisshe Church ther, ffor to erecte & make therof a Church yarde for the seid Church & pisshe, as by the walls & enclosur^s thereof then & ther made it doth & may appere, whiche seid grounde for the seid Church yarde so gr^{anted} was & is in recompence to the seid in^{ti}ants & pisshe of & for another Church yarde of late belongyng vnto the seid pisshe, lying next vnto the late Church of the late Monⁿ ther, and from the seid in^{ti}ants taken. The charg^s of makyng of the seid newe Church yarde was borne & paid by then^{ti}ants of the seid pisshe in man^{er} & fo^rme as heraft^r followith, that is to witt for eu^{er} perche of the seid wall contenyng xvij fotes, vij^s.

John Bell, mayo^r iij pches, xxj^s.

Wittm Edmunds j pche & di x^s vj^d.

Edward Butler, iij pches, xxj^s.

Thom^{as} Turner, iij pches, xxj^s.

Thom^{as} Byggs, ij pches, xiiij^s.

Water Beryngton, j pche & di, x^s vj^d.

Richard Watlyngton, j pche & di, x^s vj^d.

Thom^{as} Sayntmore, j pche, vij^s.

Rob^t Tylbye, j pche, vij^s.

Richard Dodson, j pche, vij^s.

John Radley, j pche, vij^s.

Xpofer Beryngton, j pche, vij^s.

Richard Johnson the yong^r, ij pches, xiiij^s.

Henry Osbo^rne, j pche, vij^s.

John Sawnders, j pche, vij^s.

John Coup, j pche, vij^s.

Wittm Lyppescombe, j pche, vij^s."

The new churchyard was hallowed on the second day of May, "beyng Sonday in the yere of our Lord, 1557," by "William Ffynche Suffrigan vnto the Bissopp of Bathe & Welles."

The following entries relate to the old churchyard on the north side of the Abbey Church :

- 1501-2. "It. payed for mendyng of the churchyerd wall x^d."
- 1504-5. "It. payed to Macrell for pavyng of the aleys of the churchyerd & for beryng away of the same pavyng ij^s."
- 1507-8 "It. payed to Witlm. Poo subsexton for sellyng of the nettyls in the church yerd wher the vycar hath geuyn the p^{re}fy^{er} therof for keypyng of the same iij^d."
(Observe the vicar's rights in his parochial freehold at this time).
- 1547-8. "Paid for repa^{re}cons done vppon the wall of the church yard, v^s."

The following record of an encroachment is preserved in the 3rd Register :—

"In April 1699.

Memorandum that M^r Burgis, draper, then rail'd in a little part of the Churchyard by connivence of the then vicar, for to adde a decency to his Dwelling House, the Landlord of which is S^r Walter Clargis. He is to suffer any parishioner (that desires it) to be buryed there, And any Vicar that hereafter is instituted and inducted into the Church, may chuse whether he wil suffer those Rails to be kept up or not.

As witnesseth

Phannel Bacon, Vicar."

Another encroachment was made in the same locality by the builders of the new Town Hall in 1881, when several bodies were disturbed. The churchyard was considerably enlarged on its eastern side in 1791 by the enclosure of a portion of the Forbury. The last interment therein occurred on the 5th of June, 1879.

List of the Church Registers.

1. Baptisms and Births, from 13 April, 1605, to May 5, 1654.
 Weddings, from Apr. 10, 1605, to May 3, 1654.
 Burials, from 12 Apr. 1605, to May 17, 1654.
 (There are no records of burials from 1644 to 1654.)
 Of vellum, measuring $15\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 6 in., in good condition.
2. Births, from May 21, 1654, to Oct. 2, 1683.
 Baptisms, from May 23, 1654, to Sep. 22, 1688.
 Publications of Intended Marriages, from June 4, 1654, to Feb. 14, 1668.
 Marriages, from June 20, 1654, to 16 May, 1686.
 Burials, from May 24, 1654, to June 2, 1687.
 Of vellum $15\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 6 in.—good condition.
3. Baptisms, from April 4, 1686, to 26 Sep. 1724.
 Marriages, from Mar. 27, 1686, to 10 Oct. 1724.
 Burials, from 25 Mar. 1686, to Sep. 27, 1724.
 In this vol. is a list of "Briefs" from 1686 to 1735. Of paper, and in good preservation, $18\frac{1}{2}$ in. long and 8 in. wide.
4. Baptisms, from 4 Oct. 1724, to Mar. 25, 1772.
 Marriages, from 4 Oct. 1724, to Mar. 25, 1754.
 Burials, from 5 Oct. 1724, to Mar. 25, 1772.
 $20\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 8 in.—well written—vellum sides, leather back—wants a little repairing.
5. Marriages, from Apr. 25, 1754, to June 18, 1762.
 Includes the Regist. of Banns to 1771.
 15 in. by 9 in.—paper—good preservation—rough calf binding.
6. Marriages, from June 23, 1652, to Mar. 22, 1772.
 15 in. by 9 in.—paper—rough calf binding.
7. Baptisms, from Mar. 25, 1772, to Dec. 31, 1812.

Burials, from Mar. 25, 1772, to Dec. 29, 1812.

15 in. by 10 in.—good preservation, but wants rebinding.

8. Marriages, from 29 Mar. 1772, to 16 Feb. 1779.

14½ in. by 9 in.—fair preservation—rough calf binding.

9. Marriages, from 22 Apr. 1779, to 29 Dec. 1812.

15 in. by 10 in.—rough calf—wants rebacking.

10. Baptisms, from 4 Jan. 1813, to Sep. 21, 1834.

15 in. by 10 in.—forel cover.

11. Marriages, from 11 Jan. 1813, to 9 Feb. 1834.

15 in. by 10 in.—good paper—forel binding.

12. Burials, from 1 Jan. 1813, to Dec. 20, 1840.

15 in. by 10 in.—very good paper—forel binding loose.

13. Baptisms, from 22 Sep. 1834, to 24 Feb. 1859.

Good paper—forel binding loose.

14. Marriages, from 11 Jan. 1813, to 9 Feb. 1834.

Sound paper—good condition—forel binding.

15. Burials, from 1 Jan. 1813, to Dec. 20, 1840.

Good paper—fair condition—forel.

16. Baptisms, from Feb. 26, 1859 to present time.

Good condition.

✕ 17. Marriages, from Feb. 9, 1834, to June, 1837.

Good condition.

18. Burials, from Dec. 22, 1840, to June 5, 1879. (The last interment.)

14 in. by 10 in. Good.

19. Marriages, from July 24, 1837, to Apr. 21, 1847.

20. Marriages, from Apr. 25, 1847, to Aug. 16, 1856.

21. Marriages, from Aug. 19, 1856, to May 11, 1869.

22. Marriages, from May 17, 1869, to present time.

Collections on "Briefs" in the Parish Church of St. Lawrence—out of the 3rd Register.

1686. Oct. For distressed inhabitants of Whitechapel and Stepney, £3 os. 5½*d.*
1695. Dec. 22. For inhabitants of Grantchester, Cambridge. Loss by fire 1250*£.* Coll. 9*s. od.*
1695. Mar. 15. Fire at Gillingham, Dorset. Loss 3900*£.* Collected 12*s. 6d.*
1695. Mar. 20. Inhabitants of York. Loss 18000*£.* Coll. £3 2*s. od.*
1695. Mar. 20. Netherhaven and Fiddleton, Wilts. Loss 4590*£.* Coll.
1696. Mar. 29. For John Avery, of Twyford, Hants. Loss by fire 400*£.*
1695. July 19. Some inhabitants of Streatham.
1699. May 15. For French Refugees, first to leave the Duke of Savoy's country, £23 9*s. 9d.*
1703. Apr. 4. For Robt. Bales, Maltster, a loser by fire at Dunnington, Yorks., W.R., 1135*£.* Coll. 8*s. 3d.* ("Dinington").
1703. July 4. For church of St. Germain's, in Salop, York, 9*s. 4½d.* Estimated repairs, 4000*£.*
1703. July 25. For repairs of Lutterworth Church, Leicester, 1528*£.* wanted. Coll. 9*s. od.*
1703. Sept. 9. For loss by fire in Fordingbridge, Hants, to amount of 5059*£.* 19*s. od.* Coll. £1 7*s. 6d.*
1703. Oct. 24. Fire in Spitalfields, London. Loss 1200*£.* Coll. 9*s. od.*
1703. Nov. 17. Fire at Tuxford, Notts. Loss 2666*£.* 3*s. 4d.* Coll. £1 6*s. 7d.*
1703. Jan. 27. Repairs of Shrewsbury church, Salop. Damage estimated, 4462*£.* 18*s. 6d.* Coll. 20 shill.
- 1703-4. Feb. 6. Fire in Wapping. Loss, 13,040*£.* Coll. 13*s. 1d.*
- 1703-4. Mar. 12. Fire in St. Giles-in-the-Fields, London. Loss, 1543*£.* Coll. 8*s. od.*
1704. Apr. 27. Relief of Refugees of the Principality of Orange. Coll. £12 17*s. 8d.*
1704. Sep. 6. "Collected there in the parish from House

to House for the Relief of Seamen's widows and orphans upon the account of the dreadful storm vpon November the 26th, 1703, £5 5s. 2d."

1704. Oct. 22. For Will. Brampton, of Stockton, in Stanton Lacy, Salop. Loss by fire, 1536£. Coll. 14s. 8d.
1704. Nov. 30. For Repair of Monks Kerby Church, Warwick, damaged by the wind, to 1497£. Coll. £1 11s. 4d.
1704. Dec. Fire in Great Massingham, Norfolk. Damage 1486£. Coll. 11s. 0d.
South Molton fire, Devon. Loss 2234£. Coll. 10s. 0d.
Stoney Stratford fire, Bucks. Loss, 1669£. Coll. 14s.
1705. Sep. 24. Rebuilding of All Saints' Church, Oxford. Coll. £3 0s.
1705. Nov. 4. Fire at Rolleston, Stafford. Loss 1134£. Coll. 9s. 0d.
1705. Dec. 16. Fire at Kirton, Lincolns. Coll. 10s. 0d.
1705. Feb. 17. Fire, Bankside, St. Saviour's, Southwark. Loss 1131£. Coll. 7s.
1705. Mar. 10. Fire in Bradmore, Notts. Loss 2400£. Coll. 10s. 7d.
1706. Mar. 31. Fire at Chatteris, Isle of Ely. Coll. 7s. 0d.
1706. June. Fire at Inniskillen, Ireland. Loss 8166£. Coll. £2 16s. 11d.
- „ July 29. Repair of Beverley Church, Yorks. Coll. £1 0s. 1d. Damage 3500£.
- „ Sept. 15. For M^r Will Smith of Anchorwicke, Wyradisbury, Bucks—for a loss by fire. Coll. 16s. 1d.
- „ Oct. 20. Fire in Morgan's Lane, Southwark. Damage 2706£. Coll. 10s. 4½d.
- „ Nov. 24. Fire at Great Torrington, Devon. Damage 1600£. Coll. 9s. 3½d.
- „ Dec. 15. Repairs of Basford Church, Notts. Coll. 9s. 6d.
- 1706-7. Mar. 9. Repairs of Darlington Church, Durham. Damage 1704£. Coll. 13s. 0d.
- „ June 8. Fire in North Marston, Bucks. Loss 3460£. Coll. 7s. 10d.

- 1706-7. June 22. Repairs of Broseley Church, Salop.
Damage 1390£. Coll. 8s. 0d.
1707. July 13. Fire in Towcester, Northampton. Loss
1057£. Coll. 10s. 0d.
- „ July 27. Fire in Shireland, Middx. Loss 3505£.
Coll. 10s. 6d.
- „ August 31. Fire at Spilsby, Lincolns. Loss
5984£. Coll. 11s. 6d.
- „ Sep. 21. Fire in Little Port, Isle of Ely. Loss
3931£. Coll. 12s. 6d.
- „ Nov. 23. Fire at Heavytree, Devon. Loss 991£.
Coll. 6s. 1d.
- „ Dec. 7. Repairs of Dursley Church, Gloucester.
Loss 1995£. Coll. 9s. 1d.
- „ Dec. 21. Repairs of Orford Church, Suffolk. Loss
1450£. Coll. 10s. 6d.
- 1707-8. Jan. 11. Fire in Woodhurst, Huntingdon. Loss
583£. Coll. 9s. 2d.
- „ Mar. 14. For building a Protestant church at
Oberbarmen, Duchy of Berg. Coll. £1 6s. 6d.
- „ Mar. 18. Fire at Soulham, Warwick. Loss 4454£.
Coll. 14s. 0d.
1708. Apr. 25. Fire in Charles Street, Westminster.
Loss £3891. Coll. 14s. 0d.
- „ May 16. Fire in Bewdley, Worcesters. Loss
1384£ 4s. 0d. Coll. 10s. 9d.
- „ May 30. Fire at Alcumbury-cum-Weston, Hun-
tingdon. Loss 3318£ 10s. Coll. 13s. 6d.
- „ June 30. Fire at Lisburne, Ireland. Loss 31770£.
Coll. £3 9s. 0d.
- „ July 11. Fire at Shadwell, Middx. Loss £6137 17s.
Coll. 16s. 6d.
- „ August. Fire at Wincanton, Somerset. Loss
2930£. Coll. 11s. 0d.
- „ August 22. Fire at Great Yarmouth. Loss 1228£.
Coll. 14s. 4d.
1708. Nov. 3. Fire in Strand, London. Loss 17880£.
Coll. £2 16s. 8d.
- „ Nov. 15. Fire in Edinburgh, Scotland. Loss 7962£.
Coll. £1 15s. 3d.
- 1708-9. Jan. 16. Repairs of Brenchley Church, Kent.
Damage 1000£. Coll. 11s. 6d.
- „ June 23. Fire in Holt Market, Norfolk. Loss
11258£. Coll. £2 7s. 3d.

- 1708-9. July 3. Repairs of Llanviling Church, Montgomery. Loss 1325*£*. Coll. 10*s*.
 „ July 24. Rebuilding Hurlow Church, Essex, burnt down. Loss 2035*£*. Coll. 17*s*. 8*d*.
 „ Aug. 14. Repairs of St. Mary Redcliff, Bristol. Loss 4410*£*. Coll. 12*s*. 2*d*.
 „ Aug. 21. Several fires in Market Rayson, Lincoln and county adjacent. Loss 1228*£*. Coll. 11*s*. 9*d*.
 „ Nov. 4. For the relief of the poor Palatins. Coll. *£*12 12*s*. 2*d*.
 „ Dec. 3. Fire in “Stoak,” Suffolk. Loss 2463*£*. Coll. 10*s*.
 1709-10. Jan 8. For building a Protestant church at Mitlau, in Courland, 15*s*.
 1710. Apr. 30. Fire at Rotherhithe Wall, Surrey. Loss 640*£*. Coll. 10*s*.
 „ May 7. Fires at Northfleet and Durant, Kent. Loss 1613*£*. Coll. 15*s*. 1*d*.
 „ July 2. Repair of church at Ashton-super-Merly, co. Chester. Damage 2710*£*. Coll. 12*s*.
 „ July 23. Rebuilding of Chalfont St. Peters Church, Bucks. Damage 1521*£*. Coll. 16*s*. 9*d*.
 „ Aug. 13. Rebuilding of Stockton Church, Durham. Damage 2580*£*. Coll. 16*s*. 4*d*.
 „ Nov. 26. 11*s*. for a fire in Twyford, Berks and Wilts. Damage 1261*£*.
 „ Dec. 10. 7*s*. for a fire at Ensham, Oxon. Damage 1474*£* 11*s*. 6*d*.
 „ Dec. 24. 9*s*. 1*d*. for a fire in Pavingham, Beds. Damage 700*£*.
 1711. Jan. 7. 10*s*. for rebuilding of Cockermouth Church. Charge 1331*£*.
 „ Mar. 18. 12*s*. 7*d*. for Repairs of Rotherhithe Church, Surrey. Charge 4361*£*.
 „ Apr. 15. 10*s*. for Repairs of Cardigan Church. Charge 2240*£*.
 „ 21 May. 11*s*. 8½*d*. for St. Mary's, Colchester. Charge 6153*£*.
 „ 27 May. 8*s*. 3½*d*. for Wisnar Church, Warwicks. Charge 1210*£*.
 „ 10 June. 10*s*. 6½*d*. for St. Helen's Church, alias Edington, Isle of Wight. Charge 1203*£*.
 „ 24 June. 6*s*. for a fire in Edinburgh. Loss 3527*£*.

1711. 24 Nov. 7*s.* 8*d.* for fire at Tadmore and Market Rayson, Yorks. Loss 1169*£*.
- „ 9 Dec. 9*s.* 8*d.* for Rebuilding of Long Melford Church, Suffolk.
- 1711-12. 24 Jan. *£*2 14*s.* 2*d.* for Rebuilding Woolwich Church, Kent. Charge 5069*£*.
1712. May 11. 9*s.* 4½*d.* for Charles Empson of Booth, in Howden, Yorks. Loss by fire 2000*£*.
- „ 1 June. 6*s.* 7*d.* for a fire in Thames Street, London. Loss 1111*£*.
- „ 15 June. 1712*£* 8*s.* 10*d.* for a fire at Little Brickhill, Bucks. Loss 1270*£*.
- „ 6 July. *£*1 18*s.* 2*d.* for Rebuilding the Church of Whitechurch, Salop. Damaged to 5497*£*.
1712. Aug. 10. For Ric. Salter, Coleman Street, London. Loss by fire 1720*£*—12*s.* 0*d.*
- „ Aug. 24. For rebuilding West Tilbury Church, Essex. Damage 1117*£*—8*s.* 5*d.*
- 1712-3. Jan. 11. For Adderley Church, Salop. Damage 800*£*—13*s.* 0*d.*
- „ Feb. 15. For St Clement's, Hastings. Damage 1550*£*—6*s.* 6*d.*
- „ Mar. 11. For Battle Bridge, Southwark. Loss by fire 12254*£*—2*£* 8*s.* 6*d.*
- „ Mar. 15. For Pensford Church, Somerset. Damage 2742*£*—9*s.* 6*d.*
1713. Mar. 29. For Coleorton Church and parsonage. Leicesters. Damage 2412*£*—11*s.* 0*d.*
- „ June 10. For Burton-upon-Trent Church (repairing). Damage 3100*£*—*£*1 10*s.* 6*d.*
- „ July 19. For fire at Witheridge, Devon, and at Chilton, Berks. Loss 116*£*—10*s.* 0*d.*
- „ Aug. 9. Rebuilding of Woodham Ferrys Church, Essex. Cost 1425*£*—*£*1 0*s.*
- „ Aug. 3. A double loss by fire by Will. Adams of Heathill in Sherif Hales, Stafford *£*2 0*s.* 3*d.* Loss 108*£*.
- „ Sep. 13. For rebuilding the Steeple of Warmingham, Cheshire. Cost 885*£*—10*s.* 6*d.*
- „ Dec. 13. Repairing Southwell Collegiate Church, Notts. Cost 3800*£*—*£*1 10*s.* 6*d.*
- 1713-4. Feb. 21. Fire in St. Mary Church, parish Devon. Loss 1392*£*—9*s.* 0*d.*

- 1713-4. Mar. 7. Fire at Rudgley, Stafford and at Wrexham, Denbigh. Losses 1691*£*. Coll. 10*s*. 3*d*.
1714. Mar. 21. Rebuilding Quatford Church, Salop. Cost 1366*£*—10*s*. 2*d*.
- „ April 4. Repairs of St. Margaret at Cliffe Church, Kent. Cost 1384*£*—13*s*. 1*d*.
1714. Apr. 18. Repairing St. John Baptist Church, Southover, near Lewes. Cost 1510*£*—12*s*. 8*d*.
- „ May 2. Repairs of Shipwash Church and Relief of Silvanus Carter, a sufferer by fire. Loss &c. 1155*£*. Coll. 9*s*. 6*d*.
- „ June 20. For Leighton Church, Salop. Cost 1516*£*—7*s*. 0*d*.
- „ July 4. Rebuilding of Burslem Church, Staffords. Cost 1618*£*—11*s*. 6*d*.
- „ Aug. 2. For fire in Blandford Forum. Loss 7880*£*—*£*1 11*s*. 4*d*.
- „ Aug. 15. For two fires in Dorchester, Dorset. Loss 2537*£*—14*s*. 2*d*.
- „ Oct. 20. Fire at Bottisham, Cambridges. Loss 3659*£*—*£*1 6*s*. 4*d*.
- „ Nov. 21. Rebuilding Torksey Church, Lincoln. Cost 1182*£*—13*s*. 0*d*.
- „ Dec. 5. Rebuilding Ruthin Church, Denbigh. Cost 3128*£*—13*s*. 0*d*.
- „ Dec. 19. Repairing New Shoreham Church, Sussex. Cost 2203*£*—11*s*. 6*d*.
- 1714-5. Feb. 5. Loss by fire of Will. Bowyer, of Whitefriars (5146*£*)—*£*2 1*s*. 6*d*.
- „ Feb. 20. Fires at Preston Bagot and St. Nicholas Warwicks. (1162*£*)—12*s*. 0*d*.
- „ Mar. 13. Rebuilding of All Saints, Derby. Cost 5252*£*—10*s*. 0*d*.
1715. May 22. Rebuilding St. Peter's Church, Chester. Cost 1590*£*—8*s*. 0*d*.
- „ June 22. Towards the great loss of cows in Middlesex, Surrey, and Essex. Loss 24539*£*—*£*2 16*s*. 0*d*.
1715. July 17. For Kentford Church, Suffolk, & of 2 sufferers by fire there (1057*£*)—12*s*. 3*d*.
- „ Aug. 14. Sufferers by fire at Dryneton, Staffords. & Shinbridge, Gloucesters. Losses 1378*£*—13*s*. 0*d*.

1715. Aug. 28. Rebuilding St. Giles', Newcastle-under-Line, 12*s.* *od.*
 „ Sep. 11. Rebuilding St. Marie's, Lichfield (4966*£*)—14*s.* *od.*
 „ Nov. 20. Fire at Liverpool (3005*£*)—12*s.* 6*d.*
 „ Dec. 4. Rebuilding of Blymhill Church, Stafford. (1485*£*)—11*s.* *od.*
 1715-6. Jan. 8. Fires at Walker Hith, Lincolns. and Wrexham (1425*£*)—10*s.* 2*d.*
 „ Mar. 4. For two sufferers by fire, one at Mitcham, Surrey—other at Lythwood in Conover, Salop (1442*£*)—11*s.* *od.*
 „ Mar. 18. Rebuilding a church at Sunderland, £2 *os.* *od.*
 1716. Apr. 29. Loss of John Aron by fire at Little Drayton, in Idsall ats Shiffnall, Salop (1070*£*)—10*s.* *od.*
 „ June 3. Fire at Upton in Westham, Essex. In the same Brief for a fire at Tempsford, Bedfords. (1940*£*)—15*s.* *od.*
 „ Aug. 10. Fire in Thames Street, London (7639*£*)—£2 7*s.* *od.*
 „ Oct. 3. Fire at Spalding (20,560*£*)—£2 *os.* 1*d.*
 „ Nov. 18. Double fire at Ottery St. Mary, Devon (4466*£*)—8*s.* 1*d.*
 „ Dec. 16. Rebuilding churches of Chelmarsh & Ryton, Salop (2126*£*)—12*s.* 1*d.*
 1716-7. Jan. 28. Reformed Episcopal Churches in Great Poland and Polish Prussia—£5 6*s.* 6*d.*
 „ Mar. 3. Fire at Ridgmont, Bedfords.—8*s.* 3*d.*
 1717. Apr. 29. Fire at Houndsditch, London (5383*£*)—£2 *os.* *od.*
 „ June 16. Benenden Church & steeple, Kent. Loss by fire (1552*£*)—14*s.* *od.*
 „ July 7. Oldbury Church, Gloucesters. Charge 1163*£*—12*s.* 6*d.*
 „ Aug. 4. Fires at Healthwaite Hill, Yorks. & in Whittington, Staffords. (1287*£*)—16*s.* 2*d.*
 „ Sep. 1. Fire at Harsto Derbys. (1426*£*)—13*s.* 6*d.*
 „ Nov. 30. Fire at Frampton, Dorset (1560*£*)—12*s.* *od.*
 „ Nov. 17. Fire at Ellingham, Norfolk, & at Wisbeach, Isle of Ely (1611*£*)—10*s.* *od.*

1717. Dec. 8. Fire at Putley in Morton Valence, Gloucester, and another at Townjay, Salop, 13*s. od.*
- 1717-8. Jan. 5. Repairing Arnold Church, Notts. Charge 290*£*—10*s. od.*
- „ Feb. 9. Fires at Newland in Hurst, Berks. & Chipping Wycombe, Bucks. (1020*£*)—3*s. 1d.*
1718. May 25. Rebuilding St. Mary's, Newington, Surrey. Charge 1296*£*—12*s. 6d.*
- „ June 15. Repairing churches of Ashbourne & Mapleton, Derbys. Charge 3016*£*—13*s. od.*
- „ July 6. For Grindon Church, Staffords. Charge 1350*£*—10*s. 6d.*
- „ July 20. Fire at Cherrington, Warwicks. Loss 1476*£*—11*s. 6d.*
- „ Aug. 24. Enlarging Penrith Church, Cumberland—14*s. 1d.*
- „ Sep. 28. Fire at Wilcott & Eusden, Salop. Loss 1717*£*—11*s. 6d.*
- „ Oct. 26. Arely Church and Steeple—10*s. od.*
- „ Dec. 7. Rebuilding Sheriff Hales Church, Staffords.—10*s. od.*
- 1718-9. Jan. 4. Fire in Little St. Andrew's, Cambridge—10*s. 6d.*
- „ Jan. 25. Rebuilding Dolgelly Church, Merioneth. Charge 1449*£*—12*s. od.*
1719. May 10. Fire at Headington, Oxon, 10*s.* Loss 1983*£.*
- „ July 12. Fire in Old Radnor. Fire at Habberley, in Kidderminster (1289*£*)—14*s. od.*
- „ Aug. 9. Fire at Old Weston, Huntingdons.—12*s. 6d.*
- „ Aug. 30. Fires at Cheltenham & Lechlade, Gloucesters., & at Thornton, Hough, Bickley & Barnston, Cheshire (1307*£*)—12*s. 6d.*
- „ Oct. 11. Repairs of church & steeple of Biggleswade, Bedfords. Charge 1437*£*—12*s. od.*
- „ Oct. 25. For church and steeple of Deeping, St. James, Lincoln. Charge 1102*£*—11*s.*
- „ Nov. 29. Fire at Thrapston, Northampton. Loss 3748*£*—12*s. od.*
- 1719-20. Jan. 3. Fire in Bedford Row, St. Andrew's, Holborn. Loss 4178*£*—10*s. od.*
- „ Jan. 17. Repairs of Hartlepool Church, Durham—12*s. od.*

- 1719-20. Feb. 7. Rebuilding Hinstock Church, Salop—
11s. 0d.
- „ Mar. 13. Repairing St. John Baptist's Church,
Chester. Charge 3269£—15s. 0d.
1720. July 10. Repairs of Great Grimsby Church—14s. 0d.
- „ July 31. Rebuilding Oxstead Church & Steeple,
Surrey—12s. 6d.
- „ Aug. 25. Relief of Sufferers by Thunder & Hail in
Staffords.—£3 8s. 3d.
- „ Sept. 11. Sufferers by fire in Paris St. Exon. Loss
1067£—14s. 1d.
- „ Sept. 25. Rebuilding Kingswood Church, Wilts.
Charge 1000£—14s. 7d.
1720. Nov. 13. Rebuilding Burton Church, Cheshire,
(1548£)—13s. 6d.
- „ Nov. 27. Rebuilding St. Olave's Church, York
(1039£)—10s. 0d.
- „ Dec. 18. Fire in Igmanthorpe, Yorks., and at
Norton under Cannock, Staffords. (1133£)—
11s. 6d.
- 1720-1. Jan. 24. Fire at Meon Stoke, Hants (5173£)—
£3 os. 8d.
- „ Feb. 19. Shrawardine Church & Parsonage, Salop
(1609£)—10s. 0d.
- „ Mar. 19. Fire at Swaresey, Cambridges.—10s. 6d.
1721. June 11. Rebuilding Fitt's Church, Salop (1509£)
—13s. 10¼d.
- „ July 30. Repairing Tewkesbury Church, Glou-
cester (3929£)—£1 13s. 3d.
- „ Aug. 13. Fire at Burcott & Wheatley, Oxon
(1847£)—9s. 6½d.
- „ Sep. 10. Fires at Lowth, Lincoln, and Newport,
Salop (1347£)—10s. 2½d.
- „ Sep. 24. Fires at Kemberton, Salop, & Dissenth,
Radnor—12s. 6¾d.
- „ Nov. 6. Kingston-upon-Hull, Yorks. (5840£)—
£2 7s. 2d.
- „ Nov. 26. Repairing Usk Church, Monmouths.—8s. 0d.
- „ Dec. 17. Fire at Amberley, Sussex—10s. 3d.
- 1721-2. Jan. 8. For Jenkin Vingoe, a sufferer by fire at
St. Ives—11s. 0d.
- „ Feb. 18. A fire at Welshpool—10s. 6½d.
- „ Mar. 11. Fire at Damerham, South Wilts (1365£)
—14s. 9d.

1722. May 6. Fires in Addington, Randwick & Alderton, in Surrey & Gloucester (1497£)—9s. 3d.
1722. May 27. Fires in Gratwood, Bilston & Newent in Stafford & Gloucester (1184£)—10s. 6d.
- „ July 8. Rebuilding of Upper Darwen Chapel, Lancashire (1032£)—11s. 1d.
- „ July 22. A fire at St. John Wapping & Wapping, Stepney, Middx.—8s. 0d.
- „ Sep. 2. Repairing and rebuilding Bakewell Church & Steeple, Derby—13s.
- „ Sep. 18. For Sufferers by an Inundation in County Palatin of Lancaster (10,227£)—£4 0s. 0d.
- „ Oct. 21. Fire at All Hallows, London Wall (1000£)—11s. 0d.
- „ Nov. 18. Fire at Abbots Bromley, Staffords. (2437£)—10s. 4d.
- „ Dec. 16. Fire at Caldecott, Herts. (1062£)—11s. 1d.
- 1722-3. Feb. 11. For “a great Loss of the Inhabitants in Brithelmston (Brighton) in the County of Sussex by the Breaking in of y^e Sea.”—£2 13s. 11d.
1723. May 6. For repairing the Church of St. Mary in Nottingham—£2 0s. 2d.
- „ June 13. Rebuilding Ruddington Church, Notts.—13s. 4d.
- „ July 21. For Repairs of Bangor Church—15s. 1½d.
- „ Aug. 15. Repairing Hexham Church, Northumberland—£1 10s. 0d.
- „ Sept. 15. Fire at Hearsese, Radnor—12s. 8½d.
- „ Nov. 4. For “large repairs” of St. Albans, Herts—£2 1s. 0d.
- „ Dec. 22. Rebuilding of Lyons at Holt Church, Denbigh (1939£)—11s. 0d.
- „ Dec. 29. Fire at Shennington, Gloucester—11s. 2d.
- 1723-4. Jan. 8. Fire at Weatherby, Yorks. (7533£)—£1 18s. 8d.
- „ Mar. 1. Repairs of Epperston Church, Notts. (1311£)—10s. 6d.
- „ Mar. 22. The Rebuilding of Ilkeston Church, Derbys. (1352£)—11s. 0d.
1724. April 19. Fire at Falmouth, Cornwall—12s. 0d.
- „ May 3. Repairing Newport Church, Salop—11s. 6d.
- „ May 31. Repairing Holt Market Church, Norfolk (1229£)—11s. 0d.

1724. June 21. Fire at Cherry Hinton, Cambridge
(1045£)—9*s. od.*
- „ July 26. Repairs of Frodsham Church, Cheshire
(1108£)—7*s. od.*
- „ Aug. 30. Inundation at Halifax (3395£)—14*s. 8d.*
- „ Sep. 13. Fire at Staverton, Northamptons.
(2009£)—10*s. 4½d.*
- „ Oct. 4. Fires at Alrewas, Staffords. & Southburgh,
Norfolk—9*s. 6d.*
- „ Oct 25. Fires at Michael Church, Radnor, and
Grimston, Leicesters. (1047£)—8*s. 8d.*
- „ Nov. 29. Fires at Camps Hall, Cambridge, and
Downton, Wilts (1067£)—7*s. od.*
- 1724-5. Jan. 3. Fire at Cricklade, Wilts (1624£)—
8*s. od.*
- „ Feb. 7. Rebuilding Neath Church, Glamorgan—
8*s. 1d.*
- „ Mar. 21. Fire at Knighton, Hereford & Laint-
werdine, Radnor (1093£)—8*s. 10¾d.*
1725. Apr. 4. Repairing and Rebuilding Wirksworth
Church, Derbys.—12*s. 2d.*
- „ May 23. Fire at East Morden, Dorset—11*s. od.*
- „ June 6. Rebuilding Bowley Church, Salop—9*s. od.*
- „ July 4. Rebuilding of Langton Church, Lincoln—
12*s. 2d.*
- „ Aug. 11. Fire at Market Lavington, Wilts—
£2 7*s. 2d.*
- „ Sep. 5. Fire at Crediton, Devon, & Kirk Deighton,
Yorks.—9*s. 6d.*
- „ Nov. 7. Rebuilding Bampton Church, Westmoreland
(1355£)—14*s. 6d.*
- „ Nov. 28. Rebuilding Darlastone Church, Staffords.
—11*s. od.*
- 1725-6. Jan. 16. Rebuilding Waresley Church, Hun-
tingdon (2003£)—13*s. 6d.*
- „ Feb. 6. Rebuilding Ormskirk Church, Lancashire
—10*s. 6d.*
- „ Mar. 23. Fire at Great Torrington, Devon—
£2 17*s.*
1726. June 12. For Folkestone Fishery—15*s. 6d.*
- „ July 8. Fire in Buckingham (19,141£)—£4 8*s.*
- „ Sep. 4. Rebuilding Albrighton Church, Salop—14*s.*
- „ Sep. 25. Fires at Alderford, Norfolk, & Great Or-
wood, Bucks. (1070£)—14*s. 6d.*

1726. Nov. 8. Rebuilding St. Nicholas, Worcester—
£1 12s. 2d.
- „ Nov. 27. Rebuilding Tibshelf Church, Derby—
11s. 7d.
- „ Dec. 18. Rebuilding West Houghton Chapel,
Lancashire (1455£)—8s. 6d.
- 1726-7. Jan. 29. Rebuilding Backford church, Cheshire
(1532£)—11s. 3d.
1729. Aug. 24. Fire at Rickingal & Bolshal, Suffolk—
13s.
- „ Sep. 28. Repairs of Tamworth Church, Stafford—
14s. 5d.
- „ Nov. 6. Fire at Stilton, Huntingdons.—£1 13s. 0d.
- „ Dec. 21. Repairs of Pershore Church, Worcester—
12s. 3d.
- 1729-30. Jan. 13. Repairs of St. John Baptist, Glou-
cester—11s.
- „ Feb. 22. Fire at Milbourne, Cambridge—13s. 6d.
- „ Mar. 15. Fires in Middlesex and Cheshire, viz.,
Hornsey and Wheelock—11s. 2d.
1730. Apr. 5. Rebuilding Worthenbury Church, Flints.
—12s. 0d.
- „ May 6. Sufferers by Fire at Copenhagen—
£1 8s. 1d.
- „ May 24. Rebuilding Belston Chapel, Staffords.—
12s. 2d.
- „ July 26. Fire at Hinckley, Leicesters.—14s. 8d.
- „ Aug. 23. Sufferers by fire in Bearley, Warwicks.—
13s. 10d.
- „ Sep. 24. Repairs of St. Michael's Church, South-
ampton—£2 2s. 2d.
1730. June 21. Inundation by sea at Wroot, Lincolns.
(2686£)—14s. 3d.
- „ Oct. 25. Rebuilding Colnbrook Chapel, Bucks—
11s. 11d.
- „ Dec. 6. Fire in Yarburgh, Lincoln—13s. 0d.
- 1730-1. Jan. 10. Fire in Kidderminster—7s. 8d.
- „ Feb. 14. For Denbigh Chapel, Denbighs.—10s. 11½d.
- „ May 9. Repairs of Llandulas Church, Denbigh—
15s.
- „ May 30. For the Church at Chapel-in-le-Frith,
Derbys.—14s. 0d.
- „ Aug. 4. For Cathedral of Llandaff—£2 3s. 0d.
- „ Sep. 5. For Teabury Church, Gloucesters.—13s. 8d.

- 1730-1. Oct. 3. For Misley or Mistley Church, Essex—
10s. 11½*d.*
„ For Wyesdale Chapel, Lancashire—13s. 10*d.*
- 1731-2. Feb. 6. Sufferers by fire in Shirminster, Newton
Castle, Dorset—10s. 9*d.*
„ Mar. 5. Sufferers by fire at Wootton-under-Edge,
Gloucesters.—11s. 0¾*d.*
1732. Apr. 16. Fire at Calcott, Gloucesters.—8s. 9¾*d.*
„ Apr. 23. Repairs, &c. of All Saints Church,
Hastings—11s. 5½*d.*
„ Sep. 3. Repairs of Draycott Church, Stafford—
11s. 3*d.*
„ Oct. 15. Bishop's Norton Church, Lincolns.—12s. 3*d.*
„ Oct. 29. Abbey Langr Cost (? Lanercost) church
—9s. 3*d.*
„ Nov. 28. Sufferers by fire at Ramsay, Huntingdon
—£3 9s. 11*d.*
„ Jan. 7. Fire at Manton, Rutland—9s. 1*d.*
„ Jan. 21. Fire at North Stoneham, Hants—9s. 4*d.*
„ Feb. 18. Repairs of Well Church, Lincolns.—
10s. 11*d.*
1732. Oct. 22. For sufferers by fire at Blandford—
£2 10s. 9*d.*
„ Mar. 5. Repairs of Aberbrothock Harbour—
£1 7s. 4*d.*
„ Mar. 8. Fire at Austerfield, York—8s. 5½*d.*
„ Apr. 8. Repairs of Dudley Church, Worcester—
11s. 3½*d.*
1733. Loss by fire at (one Brief) Wood Plumpton, Lan-
caster—7s. 5*d.*
„ Whitefield, Somerset—8s. 9½*d.*
„ Waddington, Wilts—9s. 11*d.*
„ Barton-upon-Humber, Lincolns.—8s. 11*d.*
„ Erchfont, Wilts—16s. 2*d.*
„ Aylesbury, Bucks—15s. 5¾*d.*
1733. Upon the Brief for Rufford Chapel, Lancaster—
£1 15s. 7*d.*
„ Conington Church, Cambridge—9s. 1*d.*
„ Seremby Church, Lincoln—8s. 9½*d.*
„ Mitchel Dean Church, Gloucester—9s. 8*d.*
„ Monmouth Church, Wales—9s. 1*d.*
1734. Collected upon a Brief for Ealing Church, Middx.,
May 26—13s. 0*d.*
„ Monford Church, Salop, June 23—8s. 3*d.*

1734. Gressingham Chapel, Lancaster, July 28—13s. 3d.
 „ Redmarley Church, Worcester, } Aug. 25—8s. 11½d.
 „ Edengale Church, Stafford, }
 „ Christleton Church, Chester, Sep. 2—11s. 0d.
 „ All Saints' Church, Worcester, Dec. 8—9s. 2d.
 1734. Guilden Morden, Cambridge, Oct. 27—9s. 5d.
 „ Onniley, Staffords., Nov. 10—10s. 4d.
 „ Barnwell, Cambridge, Jan. 23—£2 17s. 8d.
 „ Epworth, Lincolns., Feb. 23—7s. 2d.
 1735. June 8. Fire at Cottenham, Cambridge—8s. 10½d.
 „ Apr. For Machyleth Church, Montgomery—12s. 0d.
 „ May 11. North Meels Church, Lancashire—10s. 8d.

List of Vicars.

(Extracted by Rev. C. Coates from the Episcopal Registers of Salisbury, with additions and corrections.)

PATRON.—*The Abbat and Convent.*

Register of Simon de Gandavo.

1299. 6^{to} Id. Mar.—HUGO DE DREYTON.
 1307. 5^{to} Kal. Jan.—WILLIELMUS DE DEPEFORD.

Register Mortival.

1324. JOHN DE WYNCHEDON.
 1325. 13. Cal. April.—JOHANNES DE LONGA SUTTON.

Register Wyvill.

1332. 3 Id. Maii.—WILLIELMUS DE BERTON.
 1342. 3 Id. Oct.—WILLIELMUS DE APPLEFORD.
 1344. Jan. 30.—ADAM ATT AUMERIE.
 1349. 10 Kal. Jun.—WALTER DE HAREWELL.
 „ Sep. 22.—JOHANNES DE NORTHILECH, by resignation of Harewell.

Register Waltham.

1360. 1 Aug.—HENRY LAMBYN, by the death of William, the last vicar.

1389. 9 Mar.—JOHANNES SCHIPPELAKE, by the death of Lambyn.
 1397. WALTER BARTHOLOMEW.
 1399. June 17.—JOHANNES SERNE.

Register Chandler.

1418. Dec. 11.—THOMAS BLOXAM.
 „ Jan. 5.—LAURENCE HOREWODE, by the resignation of Bloxam.
 1419. Feb. 5.—DAVID MICHELL, vicar of Tilchurst, of which the Abbat and Convent were also patrons, by the resignation of Horewode.
 1420. Sep. 6.—JOHN ANDREWS, by the resignation of Michell. (See *Monuments*.)

Register Neville.

1428. Mar. 16.—JOHN MASON.
 1434. Mar. 19.—HENRY COUPER, by the death of Mason (gave a donation to the church in 1440-1).
 1434-5. Feb. 19.—WILLIAM GOLDORE, Rector of Lasham in Hampshire, by exchange with Couper ob. 1468. (See *Monuments*.)
 1468. Oct. 14.—NICHOLAS MORE, M.A., by the death of Goldore. Ob. 31 Jan. 1477. (See *Monuments*.)
 1477. Jan. 3.—THOMAS HILL, B.L.L., by the death of More.

Register Audeley.

1502. Sep. 18.—THOMAS JUSTICE, by the death of Hill. (See *Monuments*.)
 1518. Dec. 20.—RICHARD BEDOO, M.A., by the resignation of Justice.
 (The will of Richard Bedoo or Bedoe is preserved at Somerset House—Reg. “Hogen,” fo. 22. C.K.)

Register Campegio.

1534. Jan. 22.—JOHN MAYNSFORTH, by the death of Bedoo, reserving a pension of £12 to Thomas Justice. (Maynsforth died anno 3-4 Edward VI. 1550. C.K.)

PATRON.—*The Crown.*

1553. Sep. 12.—THOMAS GRENEWAY, canon of Christ Church.

Between the presentation of Greneway and Radley there is a void: in 1560 is this entry—"To the preacher M^r Underwood v^s. To Richard Cam, our curate, for a fortnight xiiij^s iiij^d." In an account of the vicarage given by Joel Stephens, Esq. of the Commons in 1744, to Mr. Boudry then vicar, it is stated from a record in the First Fruits Office, that in Q. Elizabeth's reign, the vicarage was in *arrears to the Crown* for the first-fruits and tenths for 13 years past.

Register Jewell.

1565. Nov. 29.—JOHN RADLEY, by the death of the last incumbent.

Register Gcast.

1574. April 23.—JOHN SMITH, M.A., by the resignation of Radley. He was previously master of the Grammar School, being appointed thereto 1569.

Anno 1589-90. "Johⁿ Smithe vica. St. Laurētii." "The Qucere or Chansell was lastye repaired at the Costes of the Quenes Ma^{tie}, our vicar M^r Smith folowing the longe suite therof, and obteyned of the lord Treasurer through the reddyde helpe and counsell of M^r Martin hir Ma^{ties} Supvisor: And the L: Treasurer allotted xxix^{li} x^s to be received of the Q. auditours towards the Reparations thereof, being comitted vnto M^r Ellys Burgesse, then Maior, and the sayd Vicar, to be bestowed thereon: w^c was done according—1593."

1597. "M^r CHANDLER, vicar" occurs in the C.W. accounts of this year; and the signature "Joh'an Smithe," in those of the year preceding.

1602. "M^r ABRAM CREY, vicar."

1603. Jan. 7.—JOHN DENNISON, by the death of Abraham Crey. In Hearne's "Antiquities of Glastonbury," p. 275, he gives this extract from the register of

Thatcham, in Berks—"1603, Abraham Gray, preacher dwelling in Reading, came to Thatcham, and died there and was buried the 11th of September, 1603." (There is a manifest discrepancy between "Crey" and "Gray," but the name is spelt "Crey" in the C. W. accounts of St. Lawrence's.)

Register Abbott.

1618. THEOPHILUS TAYLOR, M.A., by cession of the last incumbent.

Register Davenant.

PATRON.—*The President and Fellows of St. John's College in Oxford.*

1640. Aug. 5.—THOMAS LLOYD, LL.D., by the death of Taylor.

Register Duppa.

1643. Sep. 30.—THOMAS TUER, M.A. He was admitted of St. John's College, August 2, 1624. From 1645 to 1660 Bishop Duppa's register is defective.

1645. DR. PORTAGE, son of Samuel Portage, a citizen of London. He afterwards became Rector of Bradfield, Berks, from which he was ejected in 1654. He was reinstated after the Restoration, and lived there several years. There is an interesting account of him in Mr. Coates' "Reading," p. 205.

In the second volume of Churchwardens' Accts. p. 250, is the following:—

"12 July, 1646.

The day & yeare aboue written,

M^r George Wooldridge, Maior

M^r Peter Burningham

M^r Richard Holloway

M^r John Webb

Were chosen Ruling Elders of the pochiall & Congregationall Eldership of St. Lawrence in Reading, according to the directions of the L^{ds} & Co^mons assembled in Parliamēt &c." (57 parishioners present, including D^r Portage.)

1647. THOMAS GILBERT, M.A. The son of William Gilbert, of Priss, in Shropshire: admitted Student of Edmund Hall in 1629. M.A. in 1638. Became an "Independent." Resigned 1650. Afterwards rector of Edgemon, Salop, from which he was ejected in 1660. Died July 15, 1694, & was buried in the church of St. Aldate, Oxford.
1651. SYMON FORD, D.D. Resigned 1659. Son of Rich. Ford, of East Ogwell, Devon. By the Worths, his mother's family, he was descended from the Founder of Wadham College, Oxford. Joined the Puritan party 1641. He married M^{rs} Anne Thackham, of St. Mary's, Reading. He was accounted an able scholar, an elegant Latin poet, and a preacher of great eminence.

Register Henchman.

1671. Dec. 4.—JOHN BRASIER, of St. John's College, B.D., by the death of *Tuer*, according to the Bishop's register. It appears by Archbishop Laud's Book that *Tuer* was restored in 1660. He was buried, according to the parish register, Oct. 1, 1671.

Register Ward.

1678. Jan. 6.—SARGENT HUGHES, of St. Mary Hall, M.A., by the death of Brasier.

Register Burnet.

1688. June 11.—PHANNEL BACON, by the death of Hughes. He was admitted of St. John's College in 1669; M.A. Mar. 23, 1677; B.D. July, 1684. Buried in St. Lawrence's Jan. 16, 1731-2, aged 80 years.

Register Hoadley.

1732. March 29.—EDWARD OWEN, by the death of Bacon. He was M.A. Mar. 9, 1720; B.D. Apr. 23, 1725; D.D. Mar. 29, 1729. Afterwards Vicar of Great Stoughton, Huntingdonshire.
1733. Oct. 16.—WILLIAM BOUDRY, by the resignation of

- Owen. Born Dec. 11, 1700. Elected Scholar of St. John's from Merchant Tailors' School 1719; M.A. Apr. 10, 1727; B.D. May 17, 1732. Afterwards Rector of Checkendon, Oxon.
1747. Mar. 3.—THOMES SHUTE, by the resignation of Boudry. D.D. Dec. 1, 1742. Died August 19, 1762. Buried in St. Lawrence's. His tablet was erected near one of the south windows of the chancel. The eight bells were recast under his auspices in 1748, and two trebles added to the original octave.
1763. Nov. 25.—JEREMIAH NICHOLSON, by the death of Shute. M.A. 1749; B.D. 1755; D.D. 1759. Died July 18, 1771.
- There is a small tablet to his memory on the north side of the altar, under a recess in the east respond in the chancel.
1772. Jan. 16.—JOHN NICHOLLS, by the death of Nicholson. M.A. 1749; B.D. 1755; D.D. 1760. Died June 25, 1788. His broken memorial now lies on the step ascending into St. John's chapel.
1788. Dec. 2.—JOHN GREEN, B.D.
1812. WILLIAM WISE, D.D. Died Oct. 14, 1883, aged 64 years.
1833. JOHN BALL, B.D. Died Dec. 17, 1865. Presented by St. John's College, Oxford.

PATRON.—*The Lord Bishop of Oxford.*

1865. LEWIN GEORGE MAINE, M.A., Vicar of Sowerby, Yorks., 1874.
1874. JOHN MELVILLE GUILDING, by exchange with the Rev. Lewin Geo. Maine.

Priests and Chaplains, not Vicars, whose names are recorded in the Churchwardens' Accounts.

1498. "It. rec. of SIR WILLM SYMMYS pish p^yst of his gyfte to the church, iij^s iiij^d."

He was one of the sponsors with Richard

Clech and Mistress Smyth at the consecration of the great Bell "Harry" the same year.

1501-2. "It. rec. of wast of torchis at the beryng of S^r JOHN HIDE vicar of Sonyng ij^s vj^d."

1502-3. "It. rec. at the buryng of SIR JOHN PYMBER ij^s iiij^d."

1503-4. "It. payed to SIR THOMAS pisshe preste of Seynt Maryes for his labo^r in ryding to Newbery for Thomas Euard the clerke."

1507-8. "It. rec. of John Puncer for the grete bel at the buryng of SIR JOHN STYRY xij^d."

"For removyng of a no^b m^yble stone & for the leyng of p^e same on Sir John Styrys g^ave —(part of) xx^d." (Orig. p. 37.)

"It. rec. of John Pownser ffor the grete bell at Sir John is meynd xij^d."

1510-11. "It. rec. of S^r JOHN TENDALL in money found in the church ij^d."

1512-3. "It. payd for caryage of S^r THOMAS grete antiphoner to & fro the church at all dyvyne ss[']vice to Wiltm Longe for the yer viij^d."

1517 (Inventory). "It. a Cope of red silke w^t signes of the Son (sun), of the gifte of DAN ROB^t REYDNG, Monke."

1517. "It. a chesible of whit Damaske, w^t braunches of gold: the orfrey blew velwett w^t thappell of the gifte of JOHN THORNE, abbott of Redyng." (Inventory).

1519-20. "It. Ryngyng the knyll for S^r JOHN RICHMOND, xij^d."

1523. "It. to S^r JOHN SMYTH for a q^ar^t wages endyd at Crystmas xxxiijs ij^d."

1524. "It. payd to S^r. RIC. BAYNTON for mending the grett organs at ij tymes iiij^s."

1524-5. "Repacons of S^r Bayntons Chamber."

"It. payd for q^ar^ts eveslath & lyme, vjs iiij^d ob."

"It. for vij^c (700) laths and ix^c lath naylls, iijs viij^d."

"It. for bord naylls, laths naylls, q^ar^t & bords iijs ix^d."

"It to the carpen^t ij dayes, xij^d."

"It. to Troll & his man for workmanshypp vjs vj^d."

1527. "It. for the grave of SYR WILLIAM WRYGHT,
vj^s viij^d."
- 1531-2. "Payd for ryngyng of S^r GEORGE FFOSTER'S
knyll vj^d."
- 1533-4. "Rec. for the grave of SIR ROB^t HETH
vj^s viij^d."
- 1535-6. "Costs don apon S^r NIC' Chamber."
"For ffewtryng the drowzght there xvj^d."
"A key for the shopp dore ij^d."
"Bryks to pave the hall xvij^d."
"Payd for bordyng the walls there & for
naylls therto viij^d."
"Payd for iij busshells of stone lyme vj^d."
"Payd to the Carpent^r for workmanshypp &
for tymb ij^s vj^d."
- 1537-8. "Rec. for a Surples of S^r Nichus sold iij^s."
"Payd for horse hire for SIR RIC. DEAN, iiij^d."
1547. "Paid to S^r Richard Deane for wagis allowed
hym by the pisshe x^s."
- 1549-50. "Paid to S^r Ric. A-Deane for his yer^s wag^s
xx^s."
- 1540-1. "Payd to FFATHER REYNOLDS for di yeres
wayges ended then viij^s viij^d."
- 1541-2. "Rec. for grave of S^r WILLIZ^{am}, chapleyn to
Sir Williz^{am} Penyson, Knyght, vj^s viij^d."
1547. "Paid to S^r HARPER for wag^s allowed hym by
the pishe, x^s."
1548. Paid to S^r Harper for his yer^s wag^s xx^s."
- 1549-50. Paid to S^r Harper for his yer^s wag^s xx^s."
1548. "Paid to S^r WITLM WEBBE for his yer^s wag^s xx^s."
- 1549-50. "Paid to S^r Witlm Webbe for makyng &
prykyng of Songs iij^s iiij^d."
1556. "Paid to Sir Willm Webbe for the prests noble,
vj^s viij^d."
1558. "Syr Willyam Webbes knyll xx^d."
1552. "Paied to SIR FARYNGTON for his wag^s xiiij^s
iiij^d."
- 1558-9. "It. to SYR JOHN OF CAUⁿSHAM for xiiij week^s
servyce vj^s." A French priest served for one
day this year.
1559. "To SIR THOMAS SEARLE xij^s vj^d."
"To M^r THACKHAM for ij wekes servyce, v^s."
(succeeded Julius Palmer as master of the
Grammar school. *Vide* Coates, p. 331).

1567. "The gret bel'—In p^rmis of Thomas Kenryck
for A PRIESTS knell xx^d."
- "Of Thomas Kenryck for y^e prestes grave
vij^s viij^d."
1563. "Itm. that I (Will Duddelsoll) and Master Tylby
dyd gather toward the fyndyng of the
mynister M^r CROFT for v weekes xvij^s iij^d."
1564. "SYR JOHN RADLYE held a stable in Gutter
Lane."

Sports, Pastimes, Mysteries, &c.

Church Ale.

The ancient records of St. Lawrence abound with references to the sports and pastimes of our ancestors. The various games and exhibitions appear to have been under the special patronage of the Churchwardens as the chief parochial officers in those days, and were resorted to by them as a means of obtaining money for the discharge of their annual liabilities. The commonest of these sports was the Morris Dance, which seems to have accompanied all other diversions. It was frequently joined to processions and pageants, and especially figured in the festivities and gambols of May Day. The following extracts supply many graphic details of a performance which requires but little mental effort to reanimate :—

1513. "It. payed for a hope (hoop) for the joyaunt and for ale to the Moreys dawnc^s on the dedicacon day iij^d."

"It payed to the Mynstrells for iiij days xxij^d."

1529. "It. for bells for the Morece dauncers iij^s vj^d."

("These bells were attached to the elbows and points of the dress and specially to garters for the legs & ankles. . . . They were of unequal sizes and differently denominated, as the fore-bell, the second bell, the treble, the tenor, &c., and mention is also made of double bells."—Strutt, 224.)

"It. for iij hatts for the Morece dauncers vj^d."

"It. for ffyve ells of Canves for a cote for made Maryon at iij^d ob. the ell, xvij^d ob."

"It. for iij yerds of bockerham for the morece dauncers xij^d."

1530. "It. for a grosse of bells for the morece dauncers iij^s."

1541-2. "Payd for lyverys & payntyng the mores cotes xj^d."

1553. Debts—"It. uppon John Saunders, th'appells of the mores dauncers. He saith he delyued them to M^r Buklund."

This relates to an inquiry made in Q. Mary's time regarding the alienation of church goods.

From the mention of Maid Marian it will at once appear that the Robin Hood play accompanied the Morris dance. The principal characters were Robin Hood, Little John, Will Stukeley, Maid Marian, Friar Tuck and Much the Miller's son, who seems to have played the Fool. This performance was especially associated with the festivities of May Day.

- 1498-9. "It. rec. of the gaderyng of Robyn Hod xix^s."

- 1501-2. "It. rec. of the May play callyd Robyn Hod on the fayre day vj^s."

"It. payed to mynstrells at the chosyng of Robyn Hod vj^d."

"It. payd to Willm Stayner for ij^c (200) lyuays viij^d."

(The liveries were badges, ribbons, or other tokens worn by the performers.)

"It. payed for cc lyveryes & c pynnyes ayenst maydaye vj^d."

- 1501-2. "It. payed to Willm Stayn^r for makyng vp of the maydens banⁿ cloth, viij^d."

- 1503-4. "It. rec. of the gaderyng of Robin Hod x busshells malt p^sc v^s. (for the brewing of the church ale).

"It. rec. of the gaderyng of the same Robyn Hod i b^z of whete p^sc, xij^d."

"It. rec. of the gaderyng of the seid Robyn Hod in money, xlix^s."

"It. payed to an harp on the church holy day, iiij^d."

"It. payed for bred & ale to Robyn Hod & hys cōpany the 5 day, iiij^d."

"It. payed for a cote to Robyn Hod, v^s iiij^d."

"It. payed to a Taberer on Philips Day & Jacob (May Day) for his wagis mete & drynk & bed, viij^d."

"It. for mete & drynk to Robyn Hod and his cōpany xvj^d."

1503-4. "It. payed for fellyng & bryngyng home of the bow set in þ^e m^l cat place for setting vp of the same mete & drynk, viij^d.

1505. "It. payed for the Bachelors dynⁿ & sop on the Mayday xvij^d.

"It. payed to Maisⁿ Clech for Robin Hods cote & his hosyn vj^s vij^d—payed for lyueryes, xj^d.

"It. rec. of the maydens gaderyng at Whitson-tyde at þ^e tre (tree) at þ^e church dore, clerly ij^s xj^d.

(Was this a May bower?)

"It. payed to Crystyan Bryll by the honds of Wifflm Stamford for wyne to Robyn Hod of Handley & his cōpany, vj^s.

"It. payed to the Taberer, vj^s.

1506. "It. payed to Thomas Taberer on the dedicacon day for his wagis mete and drynke, x^d.

"It. payed for a supper to Robyn Hod & his company when he cam from ffynchamsted, xvij^d.

1507-8. "It. rec. of the gaderyng of Robin Hod pley xvij^s x.

"Payed to Mors son the harper, iiij^d.

1510. "It. receyvyd on Seynt Phyllypp & Jacob day (May Day) for ij^o stondyngs at þ^e church porch, vj^d.

(This was the old south porch mentioned on page 151. The standings were for the spectators of the May Games.)

1529. "It. to the carpynⁿ for ij dayes to make a laddar of the May poole & for hys mete & drynk, xiiij^d.

1557. "Itm. y^e gatheringe of y^e yonge folkes & maydens on Maydaye & at Whytsontyde—nichil (*i.e.*, nothing).

"Itm. for the yeough tree, iiij^d.

"Itm. for fetchinge the summar pole, ij^d.

"Itm. for a breakfast to the yonge men, xvj^d.

"Itm. for a quarter of veale & a q^{ar}ⁿ of lambe, iij^s iij^d.

Note.—There is an almost exhaustive article on this game in Hone's "Every-Day Book," vol. i.

Corpus Christi.

The festival of Corpus Christi was instituted in honour of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and was commemorated on the Thursday next after Trinity Sunday. The ceremonies observed cannot be better described than by Googe, a hostile writer of the Reformation era :—

Then doth ensue the solemne feast
of Corpus Christi Day,
Who then can shewe their wicked use
and fond and foolish play.
The hallowed bread with worship great
in silver pix they beare
About the churche or in the citie
passing here and there.
His armes that beares the same, two of
the wealthiest men do holde:
And ober him a canopy
of silke and cloth of golde.
Christe's passion here derided is
with sundrie masks and playes.
Fair Arstey, with her maydens all
doth passe amid the wayes.
And valiant George with speare thou killest
the dreadfull dragon here,
The devil'shouse is dratone about
wherein there doth appere
A wondrous sort of damned spirites
with foule and fearfull looke.
Great Christopher doth wade and passe
with Christ amid the brooke.
Sebastian full of feathered shaftes
the dint of dart doth feele.
There walketh Kathren with hir sworde
in hand, and cruel wheele.
The Challis and the singing Cake
with Barbara is led,
And sundrie other pageants playde
in worship of this bred. . . .
The common ways with bowes are strawde
and every streete beside,
And to the walles and windowes all
are boughes and braunches tide.
The monkes in every place do roame,
the nonnes abroad are sent,

The priestes and schoolmen lowd do rore,
 some use the instrument.
 The straunger passing through the streete
 uppon his knees doth fall,
 And earnestly uppon this brede
 as on his God, doth calle. . . .
 A number grete of armed men
 here all this while do stand,
 To look that no disorder be
 nor any filching hand.
 For all the church goodes out are brought
 which certainly would be
 A bootie good, if every man
 might have his libertie.

HONE, i. 743.

The Religious Plays, termed "Mysteries," or dramatic representations of Scripture Histories, were celebrated on this festival. York, Coventry, and Chester were especially famous for these performances, which were enacted in sections by the various trade guilds of those places. The Coventry Mysteries abound in stories from the Apocryphal Gospels engrafted on the New Testament narrative. The Chester plays adhere in their plot more closely to the Scripture story.

Henry VII. was entertained one Sunday when at dinner at Winchester Castle by the play of "Christ's Descent into Hell," performed by the choir boys of Hyde Abbey and St. Swithun's Priory there.

Dugdale, in his "History of Warwickshire," published in 1656, writes, that "the Coventry pageants were acted with mighty state and reverence by the Grey Friars, who had theatres for the several scenes, very large and high placed upon wheels, and drawn to all the eminent parts of the city for the better advantage of spectators." The play contained the principal stories in the Old and New Testaments, composed in old English rhythm. The original may be seen in the British Museum (Cotton, Vest. D. viij.), entitled "Ludus Corporis Christi," or "Ludus Coventriæ."

The Chester Mysteries were performed by the trading companies of the city.

"Every company had its pagiante or parte consisting of a high scaffold with two rowmes, a higher and a lower, upon four wheelles. In the lower they apparelled them-

selves, in the higher rowme they played, being all open on the tope, that all behoulders might heare and see them. The places where they played them was in euery streete. They beganne first at the Abay gates, and when the pagiante was played, it was wheeled to the High Crosse before the mayor, and so to euery streete; and so euery streete had a pagiante playing before them till all the pagiantes for the daye appointed were played, and when one pagiant was neer ended, worde was brought from streete to streete, that soe the might come in place therof exceding orderlye, and all the streetes had their pagiant afore them all at one tyme playing togeather, to se which playes was greate resorte, and also scaffolds, and stages m^ade in the streetes in those places where they determined to playe their pagiants." (Extract given by Hone, i. 757.)

Drake, in his "History of York" (vol. ii. edit. 1785), gives out of the city registers many curious particulars of the city pageants held there in the reign of Henry V.

In 1415 the Armourers represented Adam and Eve—an angel with a spade and distaff assigning them labour.

The Fishmongers, Mariners, &c., set forth Noah in the Ark, with his wife and three sons, with divers animals.

The Bookbinders—Abraham sacrificing his son Isaac—with a ram, a bush, and an angel.

Vestment makers and skimmers—The Triumphal Entry—Jesus on an ass with its foal. The twelve Apostles following—six rich and six poor men—with eight boys bearing branches of palm-trees, crying, "Blessed is He," &c., Zacchæus ascending a sycamore-tree.

The following is an extract, slightly modernized, from the representation of Christ's appearance to His disciples in the upper room after His resurrection—and the incredulity of St. Thomas. (Corpus Christi Play, York. 1415.)

Peter.—Welcome, Thomas! where hast thou been?

For wit thou well withouten ween

Jesus our Lord then have we seen

On ground here gone.

Thomas.—What say ye? Man! alas for teyne (*sorrow*),

I trow ye mang (*wander mentally*).

John.—Thomas, truly that is not to layne (*conceal*),

Jesus our Lord is risen again.

Thomas.—Do-way! your tales are but a train
of fools unwise.

For he that was so fully slain
how should he rise ?

James.—Thomas, really he is our Life,
That tholed the Jews, his flesh rise ;
He let us feel his wounds five
That Lord, very.

Thomas.—That trow (*believe*) I not, so mote I thrive
What ye so say.

Peter.—Thomas, we saw his wounds wet,
How he was nailed through hands and feet
Honey and fish with no he ate,
That body free.

Thomas.—I lay my life it was some spirit
Ye wened was he.

John.—Nay, Thomas, then he is misgone.
For why ? he bade us everyone
To grip him grathly, blood and bone,
And flesh to feel.
Such things, Thomas, have spirits none,
That knowst thou well.

Thomas.—Now, fellows, let be your fare (*proceedings*)
Till that I see that body bare,
And syne my fingers put in there
Within his hide,
And feel the wound the spear shear (*cut or tore*)
Right in his side.
Ere I shall trow no tales between.

James.—Thomas, that wound then have we seen.

Thomas.—Yea, ye wot never what ye mean,
Your wits ye want,
Think no sin thus me to teyn (*vex*)
And fill with traunts (*tricks*).

Jesus.—Peace, and rest be unto you !
And, Thomas, tente to me take you
Put forth thy fingers to me now :
My hands you see
How I was nailed for man's prow
Upon a tree.
Behold my wounds are all bleeds and
Here in my side put in thy hand
And feel this wound and understand
That it is I.
And be no more so mistroward (*unbelieving*),
But trow truly.

Thomas.—My Lord ! My God ! full well is me !
 Ah, Blood of price ! blest might thou be !
 Mankind in earth, behold and see
 This blessed blood !
 Mercy, Lord, now ask I thee
 With main and mood.

Jesus.—Thomas, for thou hast seen this sight
 That I am risen, as I thee hight (*called*):
 Therefore trow that every like wight (*person*)
 Blest be they ever,
 That trows wholly in my rising right
 And saw it never.
 My “brethren,” “friends,” now forth in fere
 (*company*)
 Over all in every country sere (*many*).
 My rising both far and near
 Preached shall be,
 And my blessing I give you here
 And this menye (*company*).

With this introduction the following extracts from the Churchwardens’ book will be more intelligible :—

1498. “It. rec. of the gaderyng of a stage play xvij^s.

1507. “It. rec. of the Sondag afore Bartylmastyde for the pley in the forbery xxiiij^s viij^d. (S. Barthol. 24 August, about half-way through the Trinity Season.)

“It. paied for a lode of Aldren polls xij^d.

“It. paied a cart^d for carying off pypys & hogshedds in to the forbury ij^d.

“It. paied to the Laborers in the forbury for setting vp off the polls for the schaphold ix^d.

“It. paied to the Bere-man for ber for þ^e pley yn þ^e forbury x^d.

“It. paied to Roberd Lynacre for havynge away off all man^y of things owzt off the Forbury.

“It. paied for brede ale & bere y^t longyd to y^e pleye in the forbury ij^s vj^d.

“It. paied for j ell q^{rt} of crescloth for Adam for to make j peyr of hosyn & j ell for a dowblett x^d.

“It. paied for course canvass to make xiiij cappys wth the makynge & wth the hers (cars) therto longynge, ij^s iiij^d.

1507. "It. paied for ij ells di of crescloth for to make Eve a cote x^d.

(The crescloth was a fine linen material—the garments of our first parents were probably made very close-fitting, and stained flesh-colour.)

"It. paied for ij qweyer of pap for the pagentts v^d.

"It. paied for dyed flex iij^{li}—v^d (for wigs for the performers.)

"It. paied for the makynge of a dublett of lethur & j peyr off hosyn off lethur agaynst Corp^o Xpi day viij^d.

"It. paied to Henry Peyne for hys labo^r p^e Korp^o Xpi day xx^d."

1509. "It. payed for the tymber & naylis and the werke-manschip of the fframe ffor the canopye and ffor whyte lyre ffor the same canopye x^d.

"Itm. payed for xij thredyn poyntys for to ffasten the same canopy to the fframe j^d.

"It. payed for iij new stavys and for the payntyng of the hole (*whole*) iij stavys ffor to bere the seyd canopy xij^d.

1512. "It. payed to Rob^t Slan for wasting of the *Taylours torchis* on Corpus Xⁱ day iij^d.

1539. "Rec. of the *Shomakers* for wax to ther lights v^s."

Here we find as usual the trade guilds taking their part in these performances. (See *Altars of St. Blaise, St. Thomas, and St. Clement.*)

The King Play.

This was a representation of the visit of the Eastern sages (supposed to be *Kings*) to the infant Saviour. It was clearly an "out-of-door" performance, usually terminating in a "church ale" and a supper. The names of these monarchs are said to have been Gaspar, Melchior, and Belthasar; but other traditions name them differently. Cressy (quoted by Hone) tells us that the Empress Helena, who died about the year 328, brought their bodies from the East to Constantinople, from whence they were transferred to Milan, and afterwards, in A.D. 1164, on the capture of Milan by the Emperor Frederick, presented by him to the Abp. of Cologne, who put them in the principal church of

that city, where (says Cressy) they are celebrated with great veneration."

W. Traheron, in his translation of Pedro Mexia's "History of the Roman Emperors," writes:—

"The reliques and bodies of saints which were in the citie (of Milan) and held in great account here (Fred. Barbarossa, Emperor) divided amongst the Bishops and prelates which were there with him; of which the three Kings, which came out of the East to adore Christ in Bethlehem, were given to the Archbishop and Cathedrall Church of *Colen*, where (it is said) they are at this day." (1560).

James Philip, in his "Supplementum Chronicarum" (fol. 227, edit. 1486), writes:—"But a certain Rudolph, then Abp. of Cologne, being present with the Emperor, and assisting at this overthrow, seized the bodies of the three Magi which Eustorgius, Bp. of Milan, had a long time previously translated from Constantinople, and carried them with great joy to his own city, as is related by Vincentius."

There is a very ingenious note in Man's "History of Reading," in which he derives "Kings of *Colen*" from "*Coley*," a district of Reading!!! In Hone's "Every-Day Book" (i. 46) there is an account from Du Cange of the Feast of the Star, or Office of the Three Kings, anciently performed by the clergy *within* the church on the Feast of the Epiphany.

1498-9. "Itm. payed for horse mete to the horssys for the Kyngs of Colen on May Day, vj^d.

"Itm. payed to mynstrells the same day, xij^d.

1502-3. "It. rec. of the Kyng play, xj^s.

1507-8. "It. payed for carying of a bough for the King play at Whitsontyde, iiij^d.

"It. payed to the taberer at Whyssontyde for his labo^r, iiij^s viij^d.

1514-5. "It. payd for a Kyltherkyn of bere ayēst Wytson-tyde, xvj^d.

"It. payd for a dosen of good ale & iij galons of peny ale to Richard Turner, xx^d.

"It. payd for cariage of the tre at Witsontyde, vj^d.

1516-7. "It. of the yong men for the gatheryng at the Kyng play, xxiiij^s.

"It. of the tree of the Kyng play late stondyng in the m^ecatt place, xij^d.

1519. "It. paid to Thomas Taberer for the Kyng pley at Whitsontide, x^s.
 "It. for his mete & drynk at Thom^as Barbors.
 1539. "Payd for watchyng the sepulcr & for Colen, x^d.
 1540-1. "Rec. of the Kyng game this yere, iij^{li} viij^s.
 1557. "Itm. the saide churchwardens gatheringe at y^e Kyngale in the Whytsonyde at the church ale suppers, xlvij^s."

The following may perhaps illustrate the method in which this King Play was performed with reference to type and prophecy. One of the ancient painted windows of Canterbury Cathedral is divided into seven stages, each containing three pictures. The first illustrates the visit of the Magi.

1. Balaam riding on an ass. (*Type*.)

Over his figure in the glass is inscribed the word 'BALAAM'. The surrounding inscription is "ORIETVR STELLA EX IACOB ET CONSVRGET VIRGO DE ISRAEL." Here are type and prophecy combined.

2. Three wise men riding. (*Antitype*.)

They seem to be in doubt of the way. Over them is the *Star*—indicated in Balaam's prophecy.

3. The prophet Isaiah standing near a gate leading into the city.

By his head is the word 'YSA'. The inscription is 'AMBVLAVNT GENTES IN LVMINE TVO ET REGES IN SPLENDORE ORTU VENIABANT.'

The subject is continued in the next three pictures.

The first has Pharaoh, refusing to be convinced of the Divine Commission of Moses, in spite of the column of fire leading Israel.

The second has the antitype—Herod refusing to be convinced by the star which led the Magi.

The third has the conversion of the Heathen, and following Christ the light.

STELLA MAGOS DVXIT ET AB EOS HERODE REDVXIT. Under this—

SIC SATHANAM GENTES FVGIVNT TE CHRISTE SEQVENTES.

“Caymes Pageaunt.”

Fuller, in his “Church History” (vi. i. 14.) writes—“Wickliffe constantly inveigheth against Friars under the name ‘CAIM,’ which he thus explains:—

C = ‘C’armélites,
A = ‘A’ugustinians,
I = ‘I’acobins or Dominicans,
M = ‘M’inorites or Franciscans.”

This pageant probably derives its name from these four orders of Friars, who were the principal performers. If not, the Play of Kayme can only have been another name for that of ‘Robin Hood,’ whose grandfather, Ralph Fitz Ooth, was Earl of *Kyme*.

1512. “It. rec. in money at the play of Kayme, x^s vi^d.”

1515. “It. payd for nayles to Caymes pageaunt in the mⁿcat place, iij^d.”

These nails seem to imply the use of a scaffold.

The Passion Play.

This name sufficiently indicates its character. It was a representation of the trial, sufferings, and crucifixion of our Blessed Lord, performed apparently for the most part on the Rood Loft in the church.

1505. “It. payed to the clerks for syngyng of the passion on Palme Sondag in ale j^d.”

1507. “It. paid to Sybel Darling for nayles for the Sepulcre & for rosyn to the *resurrecyon pley* ij^d ob.” (The resin was undoubtedly for the burst of light or illumination at the moment of the Resurrection.)

1508. “It. payed to Wiltm Poo vnder sexton for carying & recarying of bords to the church for the *pageⁿt of the Passion* on Estⁿ monday & for swepyng of the church at the same tyme viij^d.” It is quite clear from this entry that the Resurrection Play must have followed that of the Passion Play.

1509. "Itm. payed ffor the caryage off the Burdys ffor the pageant on Estyr monday j^d.
 "Itm. payed for iij baner pollis v^s iiij^d.
 1512. "Itm. for a q^rte of Malmesey to the clerks on Palme Sondag iiij^d.
 1524. "It. for drynk *in the rood loft* vppon Palme Sondag.
 1534. "Payd for a q^rte of basterd for the Passion apou Palme Sondag iij^d.
 1533-4. "Payd to M^r Laborne for reformyng the Resurrecon Play viij^d iiij^d.
 1535. "Payd to S^r Laborne for a boke of the resurrecon play—for a q^ure of paper & for byndyng therof ix^s x^d.
 1540-1. "Payd for a quarte of Malmesey for the clerks vppon Palme Sondag iiij^d.
 „ "Payd to Loreman for playing the pphet on Palme Sondag. ij^d."

(One great feature in these old Scripture plays was the arrangement of type and prophecy followed immediately by their antitype or fulfilment. Loreman performed the Old Testament shadows as a prophetic intimation of the next scene taken from the New Testament. This is the plan still pursued in the Passion Play of Ober Ammergau. (*See under King Play.*)

1541. "Payd for bred, ale & beare apou Palme Sondag for syngyng the passion iiij^d.
 1549. (2 Ed. VI.) "Paid for a q^rte of wyne on Palme Sondag at *Redyng* the Passion iiij^d." (This can only allude to the recitation of the Gospel set forth in the 1st Prayer Book of Ed. VI.—which for Palm Sunday included the whole of the xxvi. chap. of St. Matthew, and the xxvii. chapter to the 57th verse.)

"Hock Tide" and "Hock Money."

"Hock." A.S. Heah = high. High tide or festival, the time of Easter.

On the Monday and Tuesday in Easter week was commemorated the massacre of the Danes on St. Brice's Day, 1002. Collections were then made by the churchwardens

in most parishes in England. Hock Monday was specially set apart for the men, and Hock Tuesday (the principal day) for the women. On both days the men and women alternately with great merriment intercepted the public roads with ropes impounding passengers in their folds, and only releasing them on the payment of a fine. The ladies always appear to have been more successful than the men on these occasions.

It was also the custom in some parts of England for the men to lift or hoist the women, either in their arms or in a chair, between 9 and 12 on Monday morning, and on the following day at the same time for the women to hoist the men—a rude method of illustrating the Easter commemoration.

1498-9. "It. rec. of Hok money gaderyd of women xx^s."

"It. rec. of Hok money gaderyd of men iiij^s."

In 1501 the women gathered 17^s 6^d and the men 5^s 4^d.

In 1546-7 the women raised 31^s 3^d and the men 8^s 4^d.

29 H. VIII. "Rec. at the ffirst play in East weke
xxiij^s ij^d."

"Rec. at the second play xj^s ij^d."

Church Ale.

"For the church ale two young men of the parishe are yerely chosen by their last foregoers to be Wardens, who, deviding the taske, make collection among the parishioners of whatsoever provision it pleaseth them voluntarily to bestow. This they employ in brewing, baking, & other acts against Whitsuntide: vpon which holydayes the neighbours meet at the Church House, and there merily feed on their own victuals, contributing some petty portion to the stock which by many smalls, groweth to a meetly greatness: for there is entertayned a kinde of emulation between these wardens, who by his graciousnes in gathering, and good husbandry in expending, can best advance the church's profit.

"Besides, the neighbour parishes at those times lovingly visit one another, and this way frankly spend their money together. The afternoones are consumed in such exercises as olde and yong folke (hauying leysure) doe accustomedly weare out the time withal.

"When the feaste is ended, the Wardens yeeld in their

account to the parishioners, and such money as exceedeth the disbursements is layd up in store to defray any extraordinary charges arising in the parish or imposed on them for the good of the country, or the Prince's service, neither of which commonly gripe so much, but that somewhat still remaineth to couer the purses bottom." (Carew's "Survey of Cornwall," 1602; repr. 1723.)

1506. "It. payed to the same Macrell for makyng clene of the Church agaynst the day of drynking in the seid Church iiij^d.

"It. payed for flessh spyce and bakyng of pasteys agaynst the said drynkyng ij^s ix^d ob.

"It. payed for ale at the same drynking xvij^d.

"It. payed for mete & drynke to the Taberer ix^d."

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